# Pimentel warns of hi-tech fraud in automated polls

Story on PAGE A2

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- **TV's sweethearts finally wed**
  LIFESTYLE/I1
- **Top 10 reasons why Roco is a garden variety**
  LIFESTYLE/L1
- **Taiwanese abduct Taiwanese**
  NEWS /A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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## Sir Mick doesn't sound right for Rolling Stones

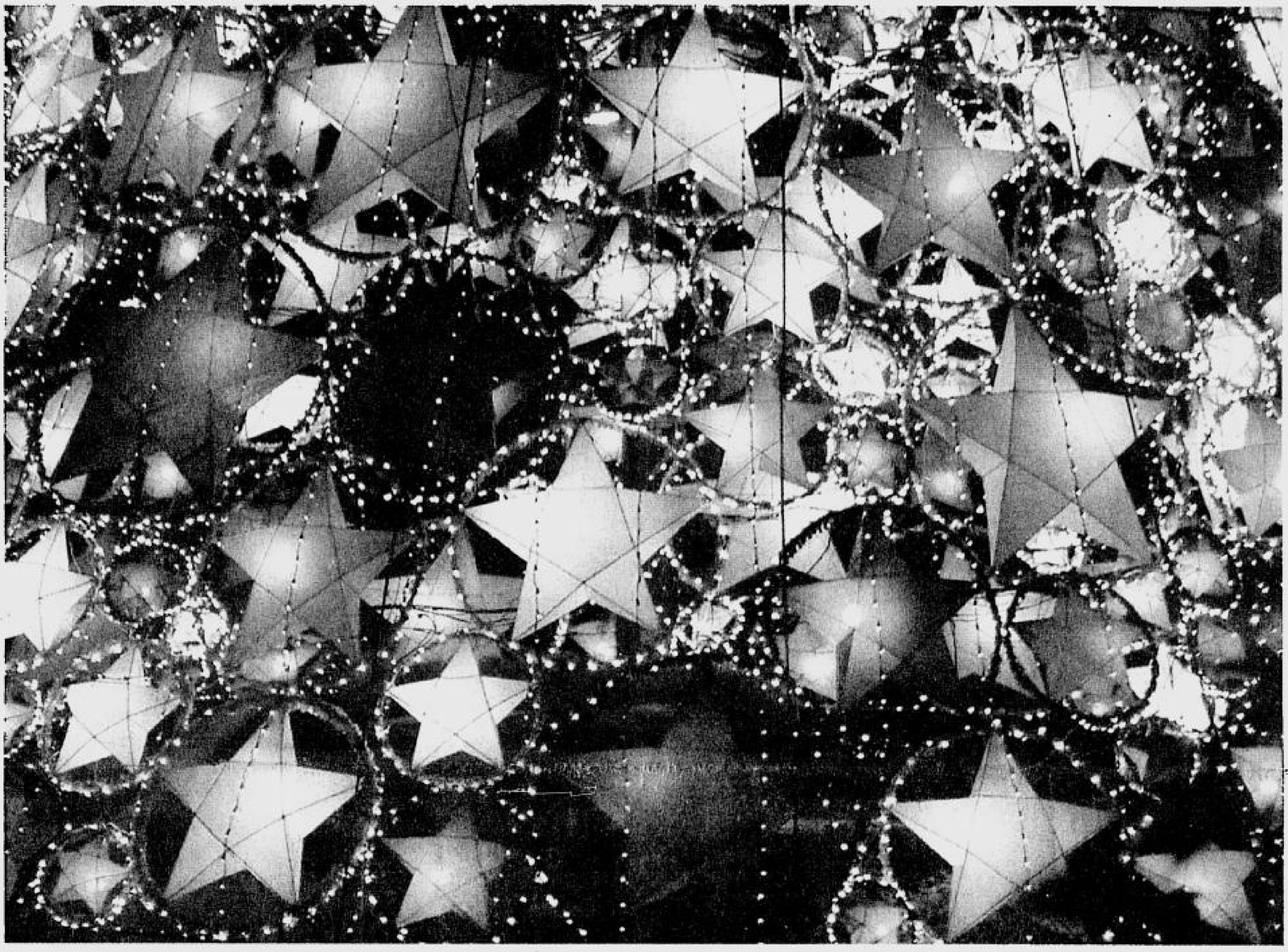
LONDON—He's 60, still singing, and now he's Sir Mick.

That pouting, posturing icon of rock rebelliousness Mick Jagger officially joined the British establishment Friday—and hardly any

SIR/ A4

ANO, SATISFIED KA NA?

# FPJ, Lacson finally meet



**11 DAYS TO CHRISTMAS**
**Inmates at the La Union Provincial Jail handcrafted 300 lanterns to express the glowing spirit of the season on a 30-foot tree on display at the San Fernando City plaza.**
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

## *Opposition rivals fail to patch up differences*

**By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac**

THE TWO MEN contending to become the opposition standard-bearer have finally sat down to a meeting and are apparently working in earnest to settle their differences in time for the 2004 presidential elections.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he met with Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday morning at a private residence, belying the earlier claims of Poe's supporters that the actor wanted the meeting to be held in the presence of witnesses.

The meeting—their second since November—was "very cordial," Lacson said. He said he and Poe would meet again "very soon," but this time in the company of a small group to thresh out details on how to unify the fractious opposition.

Asked whether he and Poe had settled the issue of who would give way to the other, Lacson said this was not discussed.

The senator declined to give details on what they talked about, but said: "All the speculations that [Poe] would file his candidacy [for president] on Dec. 15, and that he would accept the nomination [of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino] are just that—speculations."

Lacson reiterated that he would not be filing his certificate of candidacy for president as well until things are threshed out between him and Poe.

"Expectations are high that the opposition will be united and will field a single slate of candidates," Lacson said, when asked about his feelings after his meeting with Poe.

Lacson said that at their next

FPJ/ A4

## RP lands 4th in SEA Games with 48 gold medals

**By Ernesto Gonzales**

HANOI—Wushu sparked a final five-gold splurge that included Mark Paragua's third victory Saturday as the Philippines finally overhauled Malaysia and secured fourth place overall in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here.

The expected triumph by the men's cagers and an unlikely win in the traditional boat race completed the decisive closing surge of the Filipinos, who ended their campaign with a total of 48 gold medals on top of 54 silvers and 74 bronzes, and looked forward to an even more prominent finish when they stage the SEAG in Manila for the third time in 2005.

Malaysia, which captured a front-running 111 golds as host two years ago, finished first only 43 times while picking up 42 silver and 58 bronze medals.

Vietnam overwhelmed the 11-nation field in a manner rarely seen from an organizing country with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 156-95-91. Thailand was an outclassed second with 89-91-97 with Indonesia third with 55-67-97.

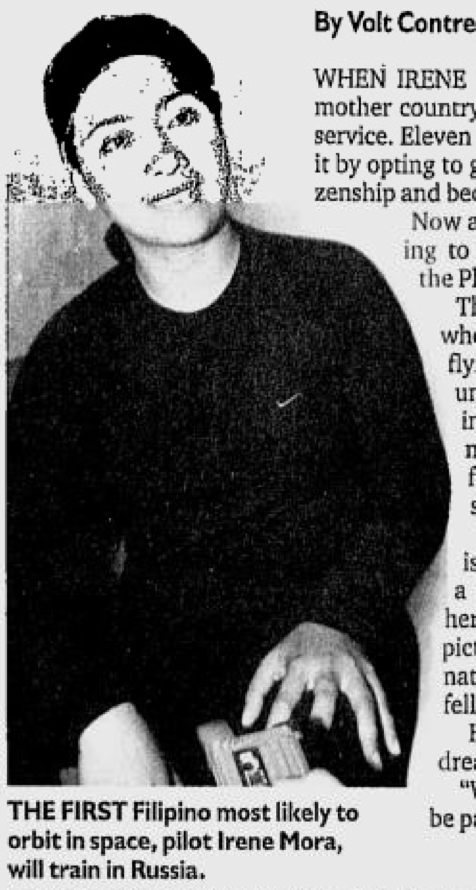
Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, who had predicted at least a 40-gold harvest this time, paid tribute to the athletes who, despite the difficulties in their preparations, "competed in these games with dignity and honor."

He then asked for the cooperation and support of everyone to prove "that Filipinos can unite together behind our team" two years from now.

Dayrit later received the SEAG Federation banner together with former PSC commissioner and

RP LANDS/ A8

## First true-blue Pinay to train for space travel



**THE FIRST Filipino most likely to orbit in space, pilot Irene Mora, will train in Russia.**
JESS YUSON

**By Volt Contreras**

WHEN IRENE Mora says she loves her mother country, she isn't just paying lip service. Eleven years ago, she actualized it by opting to give up her American citizenship and becoming a Filipino citizen.

Now at 32, Mora dreams of flying to outer space, and taking the Philippine flag with her.

This adventurous pilot, who studied at a commercial flying school in Florida, will undergo space flight training in a Russian facility next year. She will be the first Filipino to train for space travel.

Mora's ultimate dream is to fly to outer space with a Philippine flag patch on her space suit, and to take a picture from up there of her native archipelago for all her fellow crew members to see.

How close is she to that dream?

"We're getting there. Just be patient," she smiled.

FIRST/ A21

## San Francisco school has Tagalog program

**By Cathy Babao Guballa**
*Contributor*

YOU'D think it was an elementary school in Manila.

A brightly colored billboard perched on an iron fence reads: "*Ako ay masaya dahil Pilipino ako* (I'm happy because I'm a Filipino)." On the concrete playground, dark-haired, *moreno*-skinned children play basketball. In the distance, a child calls out to her grandmother, "*Lola*, here's my lunchbox *po*. I'm going to class now."

Actually, it's the Bessie Carmichael Elementary School/

SAN FRANCISCO/ A8

**LIKE they never left home, Fil-Ams at the Bessie Carmichael Elementary School learn about their homeland.**

## 'GMA does not listen to peace advisers'

A RANKING official of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front has decried the alleged inability of the government's peace negotiators to influence the decisions of the country's top leaders with regard to the peace process.

Aleem Abdulaziz Mambintas, the MILF's vice chair for military affairs who also chairs the rebel group's peace negotiating panel, said President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared to be listening more to her military advisers than to her peace advisers.

Mabintas said the military establishment was a "very big factor" in the peace process and its actions could determine and influence the resumption of the stalled talks and spell "success or failure in reaching a comprehensive peace agreement."

Formal peace talks between the government and the MILF are set to start in the first week of January 2004.

Mambintas expressed his views on the peace process in a recent meeting with Saeed A. Daof, the director general of the Center for the Promotion of Peace and Development of Mindanao (CCPDM).

Daof, who sent a report on the meeting to the INQUIRER, said Mambintas had asked that his misgivings about the seeming impotence of the government's peace panel be communicated directly to the President, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermi-

GMA/ A21

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains especially over the eastern section. Likewise, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/ 12/14/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
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| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

## COMPUTER COUNT NOT FAIL-SAFE?

# Nene warns of hi-tech poll fraud

By Volt Contreras and Martin P. Marfil

**OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday warned that the computerized elections in 2004 could give rise to more sophisticated and sneaky ways of pulling off poll fraud. Instead of ballot box snatching, there could be "diskette switching," he said.**

Pimentel noted that the system that the Commission on Elections is adopting would still require the manual removal and insertion of diskettes to transfer data from counting machines to transmission machines, which in turn would be linked to the Comelec head office.

"The problem I see here is that the counting machines don't automatically send the results to Manila. The diskettes from those machines still need to be put into another set of machines," Pimentel told a media forum at the Sulo Hotel.

There is danger that the diskettes could be switched during transmittal, said Pimentel who lost his senatorial bid in 1995 because of the notorious "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote-padding and shaving) scheme.

Worse, the diskettes, which are small enough to fit in one's pocket, could be snatched, he said.

Pimentel suggested that the watchdog National Movement for Free Elections and the various political parties be allowed to get close to the actual "retrieval and transfer of the disks."

And the distance between machines should be as short as possible, he added.

Reacting to Pimentel's comments, the Comelec yesterday said it has developed back-up security systems that would foil any attempt to rig the election results.

Even if the disks were stolen and switched, these would have little value to those who would take them as the results would have already been transmitted to the main canvassing center, said Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos.

Also, seven copies of the results would have already been given to the poll watchers of the different parties and Namfrel, he said.

And even if someone were to successfully take the disks, the thieves would have to break the codes first before they could use it, he added.

According to Abalos, there are about 220,000 elections precincts throughout the country and the ballots from these precincts would be transported to the 1,614 municipal and city canvassing centers where more than 1,991 automated counting machines have been deployed.

Once the ballots reach the counting centers, they would be fed to the counting machines which would then generate the results for immediate transmission via satellite to the national center in Manila.

At the same time, seven copies of the results would be provided to the watchers of the different political parties and the citizens' arm.

Abalos said there will actually be three types of disks which will contain data from each precinct, each municipality and each province, all of which would then be transported to Congress.

"We will use the disks only if there are discrepancies... We would refer to them in cases of protest," Abalos said.

In earlier briefings, Comelec and information technology experts had harped on the numerous security measures that have been installed in each phase of the process—from the security marks on each ballot, to the swift transmission of the results to foil any attempt to alter the results, to the numerous codes in each computer and the dedicated transmission system.

Election officials said they are also relying on the vigilance of the poll watchers, elections officials and soldiers to ensure strict security during the transport of the ballot boxes from the precincts to the municipal halls.

# Bets' filing 'circus' begins Monday

By Martin P. Marfil

THE "CIRCUS" begins Monday and the Commission on Elections has instructed its employees to be courteous when candidates for elective office, projected to reach 450,000 hopefuls, begin filing their certificates of candidacy.

Leading the presidential aspirants expected to submit their certificates on the first day of filing is Sen. Raul Roco, who had sent word to the Comelec that he would be arriving at around 10 a.m.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the standard-bearer of an opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino faction, is also expected to file his certificate although recent reports said he might delay this until he had met with the other opposition candidate, actor Fernando Poe Jr.

"We received reports he (Lacson) would be filing on Monday... some television stations have asked for space for their coverage," said Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos in a phone interview.

Abalos said that as early as last week, there were some people who had wanted to file their certificates of candidacy for president.

### Characters

These were people he talked to who had queued outside his office, Abalos said.

He said he was expecting them to ask for his help in registering, but he was surprised when one man he approached told him he wanted to run for president.

"He looked like Zorro, wearing a black hat," Abalos said.

He said another "presidential candidate" who wanted to file his certificate of candidacy "told me he wanted to declare war against China."

Abalos said the men were told the filing would start on Monday and last up to Jan. 2.

Some 12,500 national and local elective posts in the country's 1,614 cities and municipalities and 79 provinces will be up for grabs in the May 2004 general elections.

In the last nationwide elections in 1998, about 100,000 candidates ran for office.

Ahead of the polls, the Comelec noted a sudden surge of people validating their registrations on Friday, the last day for the validation of voters.

According to a Comelec official, some election officers resorted to giving out numbers to those who could not be accommodated but were told to return the next day.

"There is no extension. Those who were given numbers can come back either today or tomorrow for their validation," said acting director for Election Barangay Affairs Divina Blas-Perez in a phone interview.

# *Vote for birth control could cost solons votes*

BACK contraceptives, lose votes.

Catholic bishops yesterday warned of a backlash from the faithful against congressmen who would vote for a bill promoting birth control.

Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' committee on life and the family, hinted that the Church would campaign against candidates who would help pass the controversial measure, now before the House of Representatives.

"We call on the legislators to think hard ... as this may affect their candidacy," Aniceto said during a Mass.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales also said a congressman's vote against the bill would likely be counted as a criterion for his being a favored candidate in the May 2004 elections. The list will be released in April.

The bill, which would make contraceptives more available to women, has earned the ire of the Church, which opposes artificial birth-control devices. *AFP*

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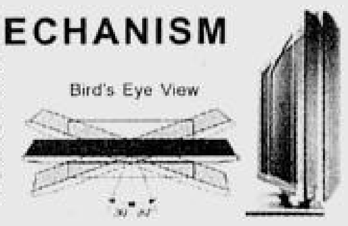

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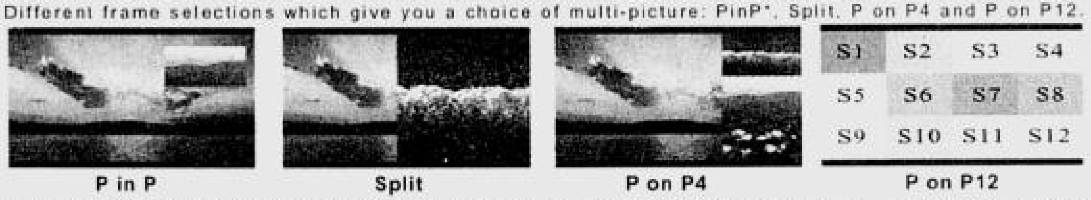

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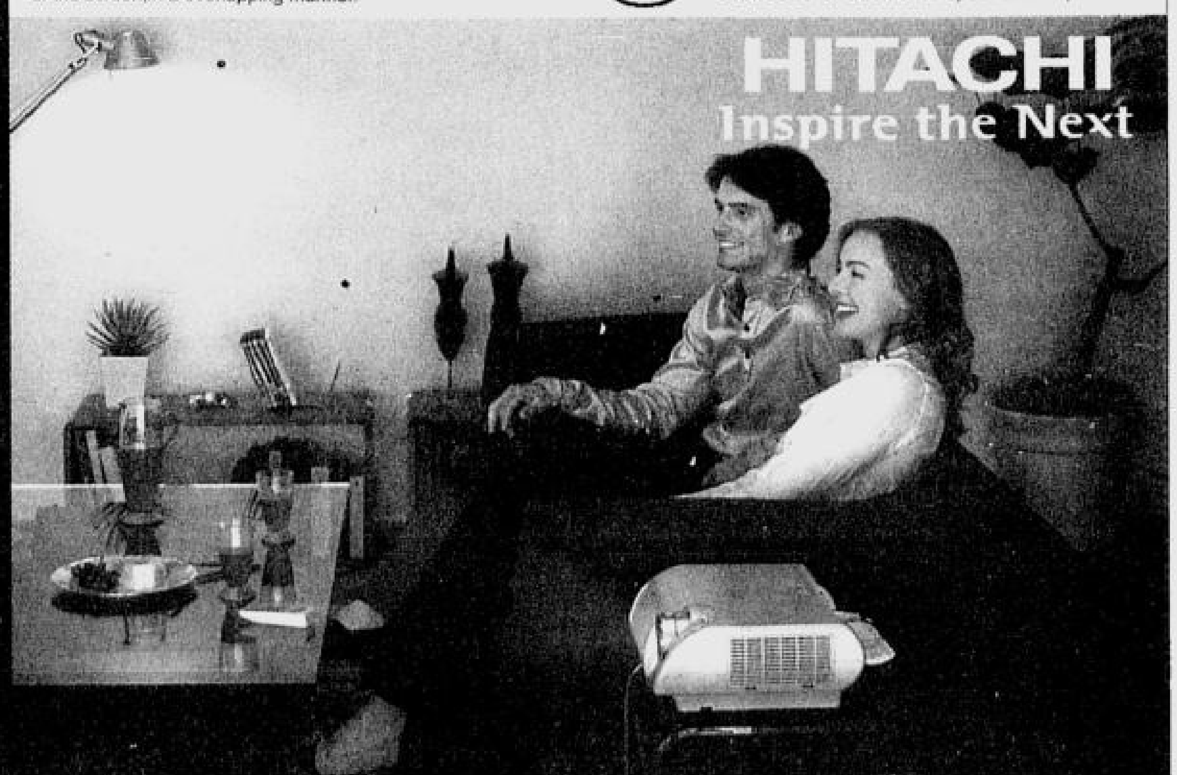

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# After legs, kidney, Robot's liver stricken

**By TJ Burgonio**

CAPTURED Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang is sicker than his custodians would like him to be.

Andang, whose wounded left leg had to be amputated and who was earlier diagnosed with a kidney ailment, has also been found to have a liver problem, according to Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military chief information officer.

Lucero yesterday said doctors at the V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City discovered that the 36-year-old Commander Robot was suffering from "hepathorenal syndrome," a condition that affect both the liver and kidneys. The doctors were still determining which organ was first stricken, Lucero said.

The kidney disorder was discovered on Wednesday, two days after Andang was taken to the military hospital for treatment of wounds sustained during the alleged gun battle that led to his arrest. Laboratory tests showed he had a "very high level" of creatinin.

On top of that, Lucero quoted doctors as saying, Andang had anemia, or a low hemoglobin count, and the bandit's right leg, which had also been operated on to fix chipped bone, had developed an infection.

Andang caught a bullet in each leg during the supposed shootout with government troops in Indanan, Sulu on Sunday night. He was flown to Manila and brought straight to the VLMC the next morning.

Local residents of Indanan, however, insisted no shootout had taken place in their vicinity.

Lucero insisted on looking at the bright side of things yesterday: "His health condition is generally improving."

This means military officials might get their wish of finally being able to interrogate Andang "by next week." They are especially keen on grilling him about personalities who supposedly took cuts from the millions of dollars in ransom paid by foreign governments for the release of Abu Sayyaf hostages .

Lucero said the military was "open" to sharing the results of its tactical interrogation with Malaysian authorities, who earlier expressed an interest in questioning Andang for his role in the kidnapping raid in Sipadan, Malaysia almost four years ago.

# GMA: Truth about Sidapan will out

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Armand N. Nocum**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday expressed confidence the truth behind the Sipadan kidnapping would come out once it reaches the courts and institutional investigations are conducted.

"Let the light come out so the public will see the truth behind this most notorious incident in the history of crime and terrorism," said the President in a statement. "All the issues surrounding the Sipadan kidnapping can now be given light through the judicial process and institutional investigations," she said.

The President made the statement as Robert Aventajado and Lepeng Wee, who led the negotiations for the release of the Sipadan hostages, traded accusations each had pocketed part of the reported P400 million in ransom paid by foreign governments for their citizens kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf from a Malaysian resort in 2000.

"Our priority is criminal justice and we will pursue this without being distracted by the peripheral issues," she added.

The President had earlier said the capture of Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot, would bring closure to the Sipadan hostage crisis.

She said Robot could also shed light on the links of the Abu Sayyaf with the Jemaah Islamiyah and other terrorist groups.

## Aventajado insistent

As this developed, Yusof Hamdan, a Malaysian who negotiated for the release of nine Malaysian hostages, yesterday said that Aventajado had insisted on the payment of ransom as the sole means of securing the release of the 21 Sipadan hostages.

In a telephone interview from Malaysia, Hamdan said they were able to secure the release of three of nine Malaysian hostages without paying any ransom. The nine Malaysians were released in batches.

"No!No!No! We really did not pay anything," he said. What they did, he said, was to round up the relatives of Abu Sayyaf members living in Sabah, Malaysia and gave them food, rice, noodle soup and cellular phones.

"We also contacted Ulamas and other religious leaders close to them. That was our strategy to obtain the release of the Malaysians," he said in broken English.

He said the conversation wherein Aventajado insisted on the payment of ransom was recorded with an audio recorder they now have in their possession.

"He (Aventajado) said Robot wanted P15 million each for the three hostages ... He insisted that P15 million for each hostage be given to the emissaries," he said, clarifying that the tape did not include Aventajado's alleged haggling for a share of the ransom money.

## Tape exists

The INQUIRER earlier quoted Hamdan and relatives of Wee as saying they had tapes showing Aventajado negotiating for a share of the ransom for the Malaysians. Aventajado admitted the existence of such a tape, saying Hamdan called him up Thursday about it. But Hamdan denied calling Aventajado, who has threatened to sue anybody who makes the tape public.

Hamdan said he would play the tape to a group of Filipino reporters who will see him on Monday.

Among those present at the taped meeting at the Garden Hotel in Zamboanga City were Datu Asis Samsudin, former education minister of Malaysia, and Datu Yang Tikli, former chief minister of Sabah, he said.

According to Hamdan, the Abu Sayyaf did not discuss anything about money being paid in exchange for the release of the hostages.

"But then another negotiating party came in and said: What is your agenda? You want independence? We think this is all rubbish. What do you want? You want money?" he said, declining to name the negotiating party.

He said they would have secured the release of another European hostage for free if not for the intervention of the "other negotiating" party who wanted ransom to be paid.

# Clerics back death for Pentagon

COTABATO CITY—Muslim clerics in South Central Mindanao have issued a death edict against the Pentagon kidnap gang as Moro rebels began a manhunt for the suspects in the kidnapping of a 25-year-old Chinese-Filipino car dealer here.

Mayor Muslimin Sema said yesterday the Muslim clerics agreed kidnapping was a crime against humanity and should be punishable by death.

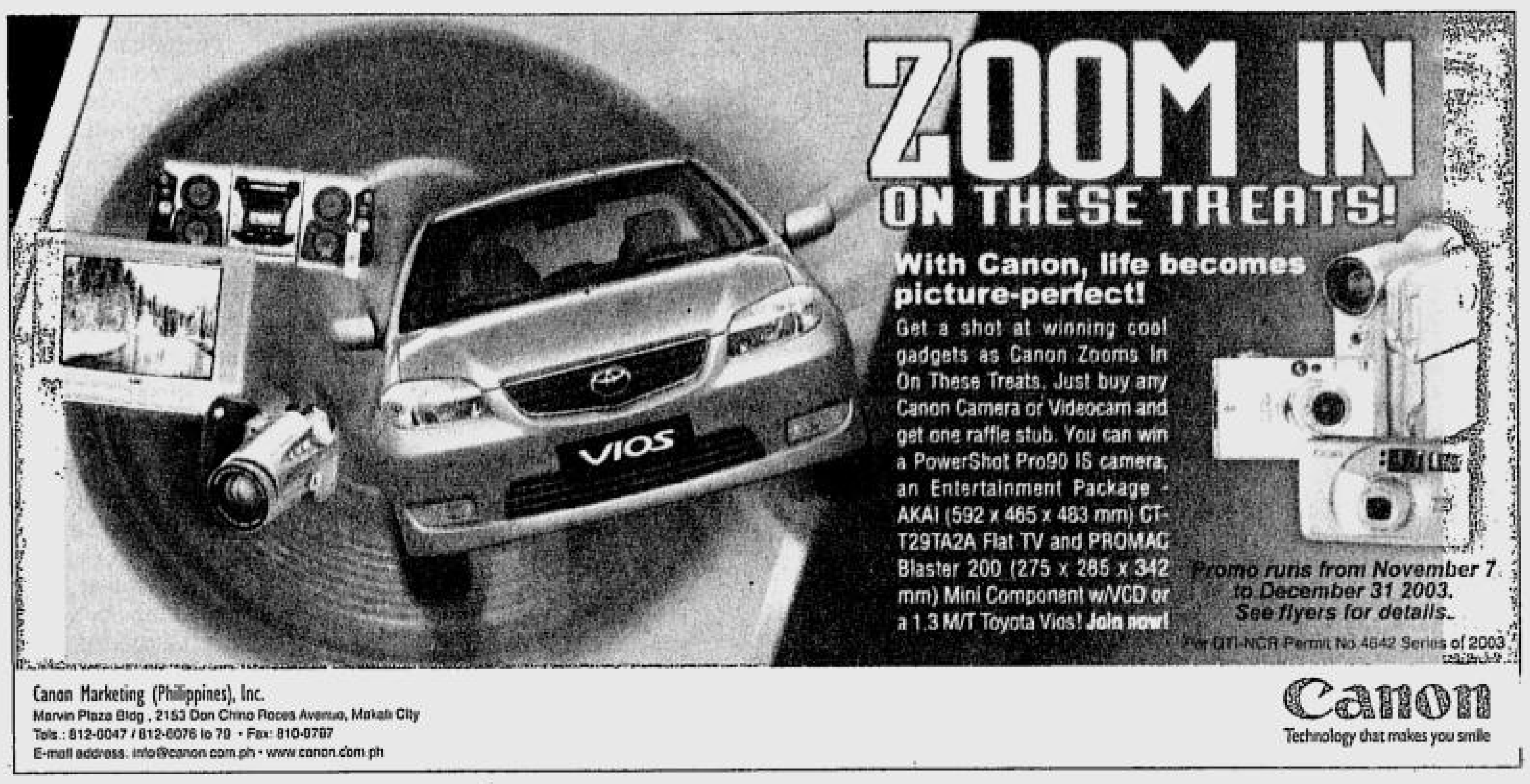
"Last night, I conferred with top religious personalities about how to resolve the latest kidnapping and they (opined that the death penalty be imposed) on the (Pentagon). Based on the pronouncement of these Islam preachers, (kidnapping) is anti-humanity," Sema said.

The Pentagon gang has been preying on wealthy individuals in the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani, including this city, and has been linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF).

The MILF, however, has consistently denied having ties with the kidnap group.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the hunt for the Pentagon members started in Talitay, Datu Piang and Talayan towns.

He said the gesture was part of the rebel group's confidence-building measures toward the peace process. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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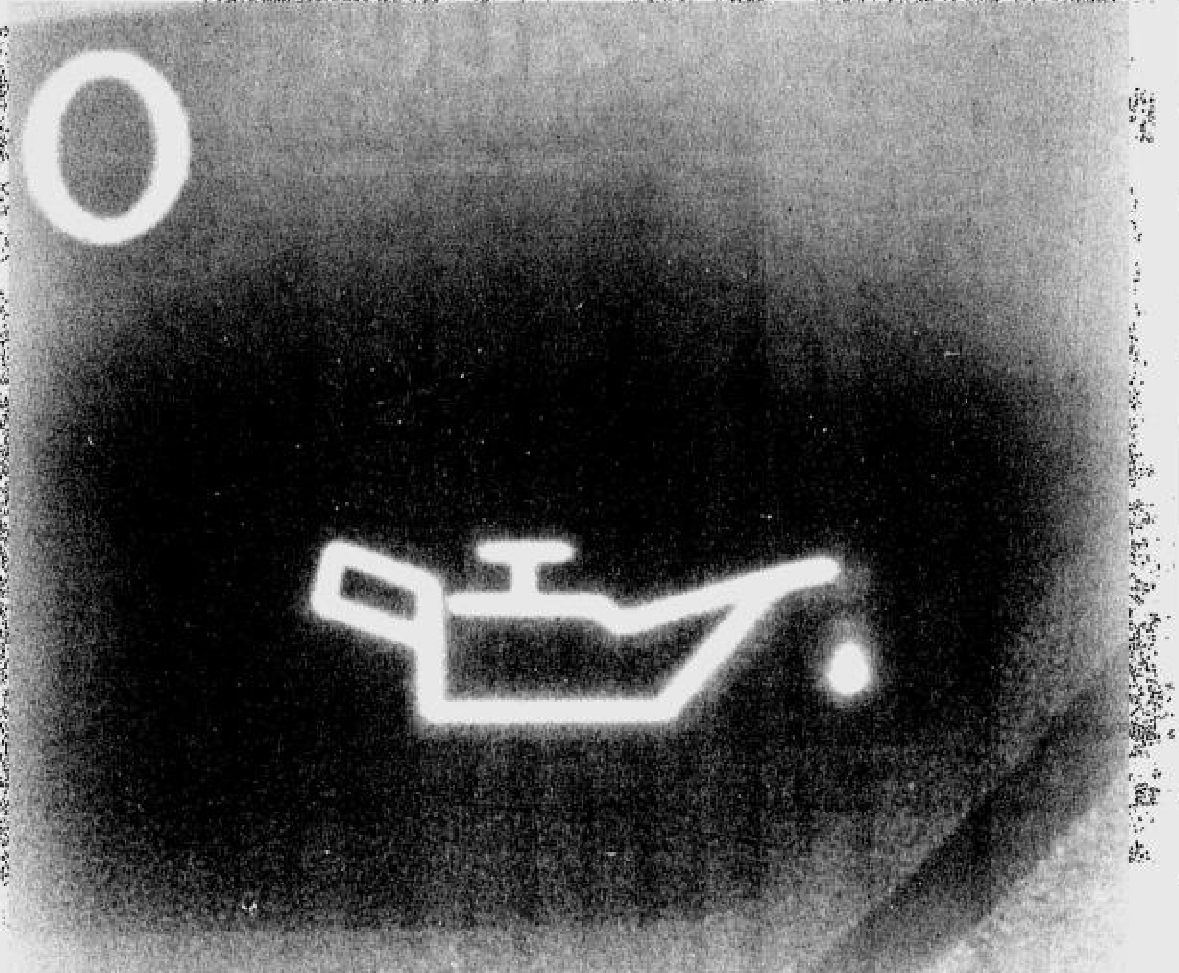

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# FPJ, Lacson ...

From page A1

meeting, he might take along either his political adviser, Angelito Banayo, or San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora. As for Poe, Lacson said, the actor would probably bring his spokesperson Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

Both contenders have been proclaimed the standard-bearer by their respective supporters—Poe by the newly formed opposition coalition made up of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, PDP-Laban and Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino, which is supported by the LDP faction led by Sen. Edgardo Angara; and Lacson, by his party mates at LDP belonging to the faction headed by Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino.

Angara and Aquino are LDP president and secretary general, respectively.

## Selection process

Banayo said Lacson and Poe "talked about the selection process, not [the issue of] who will run for president."

"They will have to draw up a new selection process. He [Poe] agreed," Banayo said in a phone interview, adding that the implication of the meeting was that the actor's proclamation last Wednesday by the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino was void.

The meeting was described as "most cordial" in a joint press statement signed by Lacson through Banayo, and Poe through Sotto.

The statement said the meeting "resulted in an agreement to undertake steps toward threshing out the problems that seem to divide the opposition, and initiate unification."

"Both agreed to meet again along with a small group of leaders that they will themselves choose, in order to seek ways and means of unifying the opposition," it added.

## 101 percent

Sotto, however, told the INQUIRER that Poe's candidacy was "101 percent" sure.

"There's nothing anyone can say or do to make him decide not to push through with his candidacy," Sotto said.

He said that the Poe-Lacson meeting lasted less than 30 minutes, and that Lacson was accompanied by Banayo and Rudy Meyer, an aide of the actor's.

Asked if it was in fact he and Angara who were behind Poe's decision to seek the presidency, Sotto said: "There is no truth to that perception."

He described himself as "just a facilitator," and said he had "never convinced" the actor to run for president.

He added that Angara had not spoken with Poe since President Joseph Estrada's term.

Sotto also said it was Banayo who drafted the joint statement. He said that it was faxed to Poe for his approval and to himself for review, and that he made a few revisions.

## Phone call

Banayo said he was at home when Lacson called on his mobile phone at about 11 a.m.

"He told me in front of Mr. Fernando Poe that there would be another meeting next week," Banayo said.

He quoted Lacson as saying that Poe and the senator had agreed to meet again together with their "advisers, companions or lieutenants" to "discuss a mutually agreed upon selection process," on a day to be set by the Lacson camp.

## Why Poe not at proclamation

Banayo said Poe did not attend his Wednesday proclamation at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati because he felt that the selection process conducted by the opposition coalition was "unfair."

"*Ang usapan ay patas ang laban* (The agreement was that it would be a fair fight)," said Banayo, who claimed that what "Angara and [ex-Sen. Juan Ponce] Enrile did was not acceptable."

"They excluded Senator Lacson from the process. There was no real selection process. We said it was unfair, and Poe agreed," he said.

In the meantime, Banayo said, neither of the two men would file a certificate of candidacy until the issue of the opposition standard-bearer was resolved.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed the supposed unity talks between Lacson and Poe.

"I am glad the opposition is moving toward unity so that we can get down to the business of threshing out the issues of the campaign," Ms Macapagal said in a rare statement on her rivals for the presidency in 2004.

Earlier, her campaign spokesperson, Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, took potshots at the stalemate between Lacson and Poe, saying this showed that the opposition would be engaged in bickering and dividing of spoils if elected.

## GMA to HK, Bahrain

"On my part, I just arrived from a fruitful trip to Japan where I worked for a better deal for our [overseas Filipino workers] and marked more gains for peace and development in Mindanao," said the President, who arrived in Manila at around 4 a.m. yesterday from Tokyo, where she attended the Japan-Asean summit.

She said she would leave for Bahrain this morning "in pursuit of the same thrusts, and we shall widen the range of our diplomacy to reinforce our domestic policies and programs to uplift the lives of our people."

Before flying to Bahrain, the President will stop over in Hong Kong to meet with the hundreds of thousands of Filipino OFWs there, some of whom will be voting for the first time as absentee voters.

## Drawing power

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., another opposition presidential aspirant, conceded that Poe would "most likely" emerge as the official standard-bearer of the opposition because of his "big drawing power."

Poe "comes with the force of a typhoon, if one were to use an analogy," Pimentel said in a press statement.

But he said that while Poe could unify the nation, "that unity can become ephemeral if it is not based on a solid platform."

Pimentel also said the opposition should unite because the President was still the one to beat despite her declining public ratings.

"The incumbent in Malacañang is always the person to beat whether she is doing well in the surveys or not, because she has all the resources and machinery of the government at her disposal," the senator said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

# Sir Mick doesn't sound right . . .

From page A1

one objected.

Rolling Stone Keith Richards was a rare dissenter as Jagger—the group's raffish, womanizing front man—accepted a knighthood from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace. Richards said Jagger's accepting the honor was a disgrace, a comment Jagger laughed off.

"I think he would probably like to get the same honor himself," Jagger told reporters.

"It's like being given an ice cream—one gets one and they all want one. It's nothing new. Keith likes to make a fuss."

Times have changed since 1965, when some outraged dignitaries returned their gold medals in protest after The Beatles were made Members of the Order of the British Empire, or MBE.

Since then, ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, Beatles' producer George Martin, Elton John and Cliff Richard have become rock knights.

Two other senior rockers—Gerry Marsden of Gerry and the Pacemakers, and Gary Brooker of Procol Harum—were at the palace Thursday to collect MBEs for their charity work.

## Angry letters

Other than the profanity-laced criticism from Richards, the announcement last year of Jagger's honor brought only a couple of angry letters to The Daily Telegraph.

A Canadian woman whose husband, mother and grandfather received honors wrote: "By giving a knighthood to a rogue like Mick Jagger, the prime minister has denigrated all the worthy recipients of honors from Her Majesty the Queen."

Born Michael Philip Jagger in a London suburb, Jagger studied at the prestigious London School of Economics, where he started playing with Richards and Brian Jones.

They made their first public appearance at a jazz club in 1962, taking the name Rolling Stones from Muddy Waters' "The Rolling Stone Blues." Bass player Bill Wyman and drummer Charlie Watts joined later.

## 'Jungle music'

Jagger came to the ceremony with his 92-year-old father, Joe—who decades ago chided his son's passion for "jungle music"—and daughters Karis, 32, and Elizabeth, 19.

He conceded little to sartorial tradition. Instead of the more usual tailcoat, Jagger sported a designer suit with leather lapels and black leather sneakers. He denied that accepting a knighthood was a betrayal of his unconventional past, which epitomized the "sex, drugs and rock 'n roll" lifestyle.

"I don't think the establishment as we knew it exists any more," he said. Honors, he added in a jokey exchange with reporters, are very nice "as long as you don't take it all too seriously."

Jagger suggested that he was now due for a bit more respect.

"I suppose people will call me 'Sir Mick,'" he told reporters, "but 'Sir Michael' has a nice ring to it."

## Tremendous snob

Singer Marianne Faithful commented last year that she wasn't surprised that her old boyfriend accepted a knighthood. Calling him "a tremendous snob," she said: "He always wanted that so much, that's why I'm sort of compassionate about it."

Jagger was a shy, middle-class youth when he set up the Rolling Stones with guitarist Richards, a childhood friend from Dartford, east London, while still a student at the London School of Economics.

In 1962, Jagger and Richards hooked up with another guitarist, Brian Jones, and the three began playing gigs around the British capital, releasing their first album, "The Rolling Stones," the following year.

By 1965, with the release of "(I can't get no) Satisfaction" and its subsequent success in the United States, Jagger, the man with the surly demeanor, rubber lips and a scarecrow body, had hit the big time. He and his rebellious Stones were international stars.

## 40-year career

The rest, as they say, is history.

"Under my Thumb," "Let's Spend the Night Together," "Sympathy for the Devil" and "Brown Sugar" are among the numerous hits which have punctuated the group's 40-year career.

While all band members have caused a lot of ink to flow—Brian Jones was found dead in a swimming pool in 1969, Keith Richards was arrested for heroin possession in 1977—it is the indefatigable Jagger whose provocative nature has always carried the band. AP, AFP

# Defensor cites 'dream team'

**By Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana**

SHE HAS yet to pick her running mate, but President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign spokesperson Mike Defensor is already describing her slate as a "dream team."

Defensor claimed in a statement that there was a "bandwagon of support" for Ms Macapagal's candidacy among political leaders allied with former President Joseph Estrada, as well as with other groups.

"The bandwagon is expected to become a steamroller when the campaign goes full swing," Defensor said.

He cited Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano, both known supporters of the deposed Estrada, who recently pledged support for the President.

Switching sides along with Emano was another Cagayan de Oro leader, House Assistant Minority Leader Constantino Jaraula, a member of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

A few days later, Defensor said, Leyte political kingpin Kokoy Romualdez, younger brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, also vowed to back the administration team. Bulacan mayors and political leaders led by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople followed suit, Defensor added.

He also announced that Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, Ms Macapagal's former chief of staff when she was vice president, had "come back to the fold" after a falling out early into her presidency.

Defensor said Rep. Sammy Dangwa, Marawi Mayor Omar Solitario, and Cebu mayors were likewise backing the President.

As for what he called "the PGMA Dream Team" itself, Defensor was vague at best: "Those who are signing up ... are from different political spectra, which only shows that the Macapagal administration has indeed been effective in delivering government service to our people."

But apparently bearing out the spokesperson's claim are reports that the Nationalist People's Coalition, led by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, is set to sign a coalition agreement with the ruling Lakas-CMD.

NPC's existing coalition with Lakas in the House of Representatives was strained with the aborted impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., which Cojuangco's party had spearheaded.

Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy, NPC president, met last Wednesday with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Lakas president, to draft the pact.

**GIANT BELEN.** Three children are dwarfed by two huge lighted figures of Joseph and Mary as they stand before the crib of the Infant Jesus in this Nativity scene in front of the University of the Philippines' Quezon Hall.

# 'Politics heating up early in RP'

TOKYO, Japan via PLDT—While bemoaning how politics has reached the boiling point so early in Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo late Friday plunged headlong into the international campaign trail here where she was warmly received by hundreds of overseas Filipino workers despite Tokyo's freezing weather.

"*Dun sa Pilipinas napakaaga uminit ng kampanya, kaya mas masaya ako kapiling ninyo* (In the Philippines, the campaign has heated up quite early, that's why I'm happier being here with you)," Ms Macapagal said in a speech before leaders of Filipino organizations in Japan.

The President was in Japan to attend the Asean-Japan summit. She was set to leave for Hong Kong and Bahrain after returning to Manila.

She is due to arrive in Hong Kong today on a lightning visit to meet Filipino migrant workers in what critics say is a bid to shore up support for her election bid.

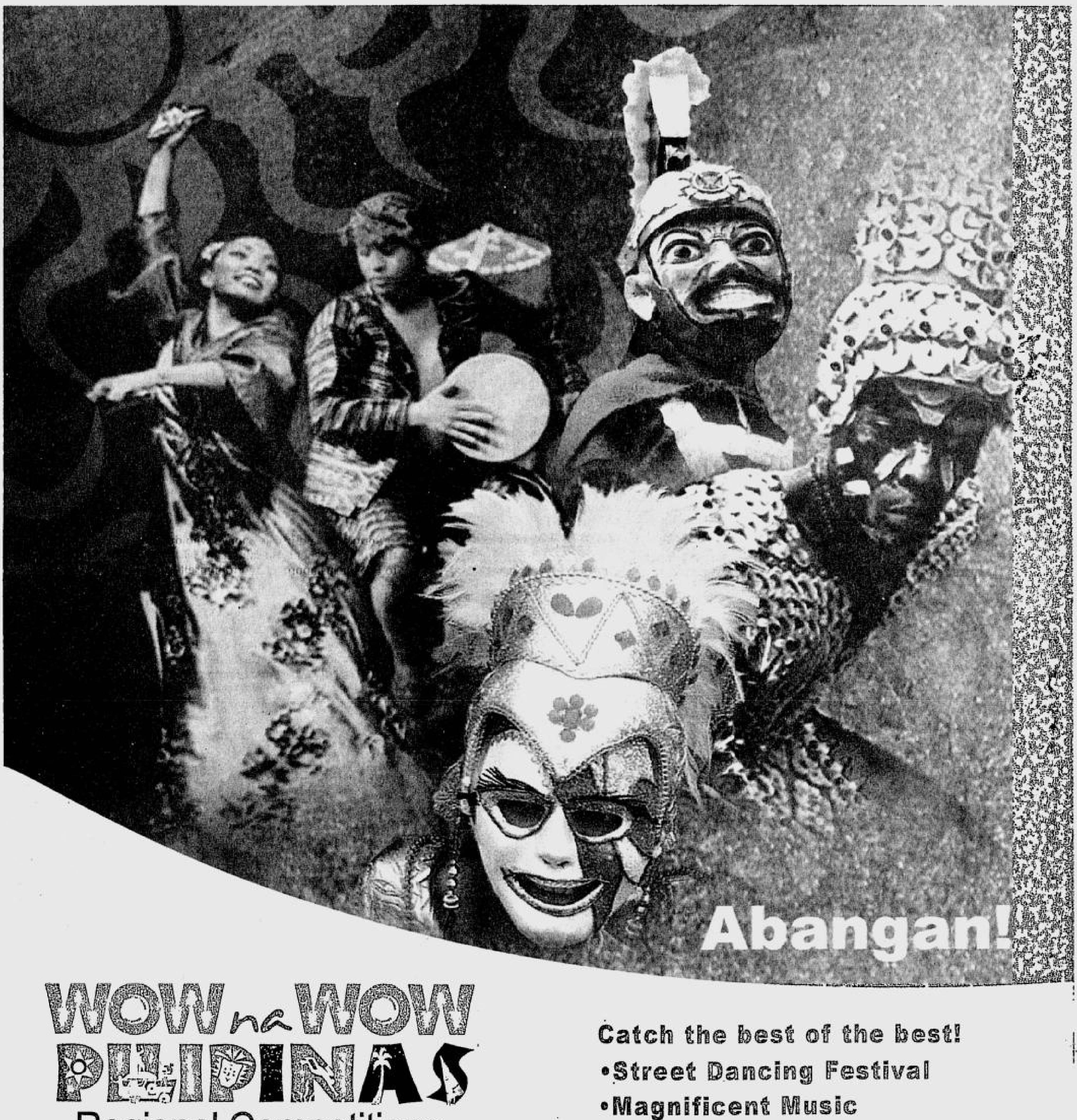
In Tokyo on Friday night, the President was mobbed by enthusiastic Filipinos wielding digital and mobile phone cameras, and handycams, as she climbed up the stage at the Takenawa Prince Hotel.

GMA pocket and wall calendars, and tabloid-sized information sheets extolling her housing projects were laid out at the hotel entrance.

A number of people in the crowd wore white t-shirts with "*Kay Gloria Kami* (We Are for Gloria)" emblazoned in red letters.

The President began her speech with greetings in several Filipino dialects and lavished praise for the OFW's cash remittances. She said the overseas Filipinos' "investments" helped the country achieve its highest economic growth rate in a quarter since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Ms Macapagal said that the OFWs in Japan numbered around 300,000, making them the third biggest population of Filipino immigrants after Saudi Arabia (one million) and Malaysia (500,000). *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.; With a report from AP*



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# Ebdane to Berroya: Take your time

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. is not rushing Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya out of his post at the Civil Security Group just to complete the controversial 32-man revamp in the Philippine National Police.

Berroya was the only official to keep his post in the recent reshuffle which saw 31 other officers move on to new assignments.

"There's no deadline for General Berroya to leave his post. There's no order yet for his relief. Once this comes out, he will be relieved," said Senior Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief information officer, in a phone interview.

He said Berroya's relief could come even after Dec. 15, when the moratorium on government appointments starts, as long as it had the approval of the Commission on Elections.

Quoting Ebdane, Goltiao said Berroya will be appointed to a government agency. He declined to confirm if this was the Bureau of Customs, however.

Pending Berroya's departure, his reported successor, Chief Supt. Alfredo de Vera, would continue to report to the office of the PNP chief.

Berroya and Director Eduardo Matillano, erstwhile chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, were among police officials who questioned the revamp and asked Malacañang to exempt them from it, resulting in delays in its implementation.

Matillano, however, accepted his new post as director for investigation and detective management, after a public reconciliation with Ebdane instigated by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

For his part, Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, erstwhile Region 4-A director, said he was accepting his new position of deputy director for operations in the National Capital Region Police Office with some reservation.

"I had second thoughts about accepting the post in deference to some senior officers. But if they think I'm deserving of the position, so be it. I'm a professional; I follow orders," he said in a phone interview.

"It's actually a promotion," added Caringal, who was originally appointed director for Region 12 until he began complaining about the lack of consultation and professionalism in the revamp.

**KOREAN VS KOREAN**

Korean nationals Lee Sang Jin and Yun Ki Young turn camera-shy in the Angeles City jail yesterday after they were arrested for the alleged abduction of another Korean, Ki Choul Yoon, said to be their business partner. Ki's Filipino girlfriend said the three were involved in treasure-hunting activities. Ki was later released unharmed.

ARLAN NAEG

# Militants say Corpus up to old tricks

THE MILITANT Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) yesterday dismissed as "nothing but the usual Red Scare tactics" allegations made by former spy chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus that the group had "infiltrated" the Philippine Information Agency, the government's propaganda arm.

"He's using that same old Red Scare tactic but it's falling flat," said Ferdie Gaite, national president of Courage, in an interview. "He's been sidelined that's why he's just using Courage to advance this paranoia of his."

Gaite said the PIA was "not even our affiliate—although we help the employees."

In an interview Friday, Corpus, now chief of the military's Civil Relations Group, said the PIA had been "infiltrated" by members of Courage, but declined to give details.

Corpus, who defected to the communist movement in the '70s, said this was the reason he's pushing for the restoration of the Internal Security Act, a measure designed by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos to thwart the communist threat. *Volt Contreras*

## KIDNAPPING OR COLLECTION?

# Taiwanese abduct Taiwanese

By TJ Burgonio

FOUR Taiwanese nationals were kidnapped by some compatriots in Manila on Friday night, but were released early the following morning after paying P800,000 to their abductors, officials said yesterday.

Bruce Cheng and three Taiwanese associates, who were not identified, were safely back at Cheng's home on Luna Street in Pasay City before 6 a.m. on Saturday.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), was quick to say this was not a kidnapping case, but one of some parties simply collecting some dues.

### Settled case

"As far as we are concerned, this is a settled case. We don't categorize this as a kidnapping," Servando said in a phone interview, adding that the P800,000 was not a ransom payment, but the amount the victims owed their captors.

The Taiwanese resorted to abducting their compatriots to force them to pay up what they owed, Servando said, citing the results of an initial police investigation of the case. Naktaf, however, is pressing ahead with its investigation of the case, he added.

Cheng and his three companions were seized by a group of 10 armed men, which included some Taiwanese, in the vicinity of the Rotary Club of Manila offices, according to Servando. He said one of Cheng's companions managed to escape from the armed men.

### Negotiations

Cheng reportedly negotiated with their Taiwanese captors and, after a few hours, was able to get them to settle for an P800,000 ransom for their freedom. Two of his friends allegedly delivered the money to Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

The victims were freed in Cubao, Quezon City at around 5:30 a.m. on Saturday. Servando did not provide other details of the incident.

The abduction occurred five days after police started conducting "chokepoints" and mobile checkpoints on "11 corridors" leading to Metro Manila in an effort to control the crime rate, particularly heinous crimes like kidnapping, drug trafficking and bank robberies.

To date, several suspected kidnappers and drug pushers have been apprehended at such checkpoints. Alien kidnappings of their own countrymen are not uncommon in the Philippines where there is a sizable number of Taiwanese, Korean, Chinese and Japanese nationals involved in local businesses.

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Judgment in an ejectment suit—The basic issue before us is whether petitioner's members, who were not parties to the unlawful detainer case, may be ejected from the land subject of this case. We rule in the affirmative. It is well-settled that, although an ejectment suit is an action *in personam* wherein the judgment is binding only upon the parties properly impleaded and given an opportunity to be heard, the judgment becomes binding on anyone who has not been impleaded if he or she is: (a) a trespasser, squatter or agent of the defendant fraudulently occupying the property to frustrate the judgment; (b) a guest or occupant of the premises with the permission of the defendant; (c) a transferee pendente lite; (d) a sublessee; (e) a co-lessee or (f) a member of the family, relative or privy of the defendant. In the case at bar, the records show that petitioner's members are trespassers or squatters who do not have any right to occupy the property of respondent. Petitioner does not dispute the ownership of the parcels of land in question. In fact, it even admitted that the subject property is owned by Macaria Maglaqui, mother of private respondent. Petitioner failed to establish any right which would entitle its members to occupy the land in any capacity, whether as lessees, tenants and the like. Petitioner's only defense against the eviction and demolition orders is their supposed non-inclusion in the original detainer case. This defense, however, has no legal support since its members are trespassers or squatters who are bound by the judgment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Corona, Third Division, Sunflower Neighborhood Association vs Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 136274, September 3, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

# Lewd mags, stars warned

THE GOVERNMENT is poised to launch a crackdown on smut tabloids and magazines publishing lewd pictures and go after sexy actresses showing too much skin.

"This is fair warning to publishers of obscene magazines and tabloids: Stop it before it's too late. We will not hesitate to file charges against them. Do not test the waters, so to speak," said Acting Justice Secretary Jose Calida, a born-again Christian.

Noting the resurgence of magazines and tabloids showing bold pictures of women, Calida said the government will not allow this trend to continue.

Calida pointed out that publishing obscene materials is punishable under the Revised Penal Code.

"I will not hesitate to order the National Bureau of Investigation to go after them. This (trend) will result in the moral corruption of the youth and we will not allow that. So, they better exercise prudence," Calida said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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# Ebdane to Berroya: Take your time

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. is not rushing Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya out of his post at the Civil Security Group just to complete the controversial 32-man revamp in the Philippine National Police.

Berroya was the only official to keep his post in the recent reshuffle which saw 31 other officers move on to new assignments.

"There's no deadline for General Berroya to leave his post. There's no order yet for his relief. Once this comes out, he will be relieved," said Senior Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief information officer, in a phone interview.

He said Berroya's relief could come even after Dec. 15, when the moratorium on government appointments starts, as long as it had the approval of the Commission on Elections.

Quoting Ebdane, Goltino said Berroya will be appointed to a government agency. He declined to confirm if this was the Bureau of Customs, however.

Pending Berroya's departure, his reported successor, Chief Supt. Alfredo de Vera, would continue to report to the office of the PNP chief.

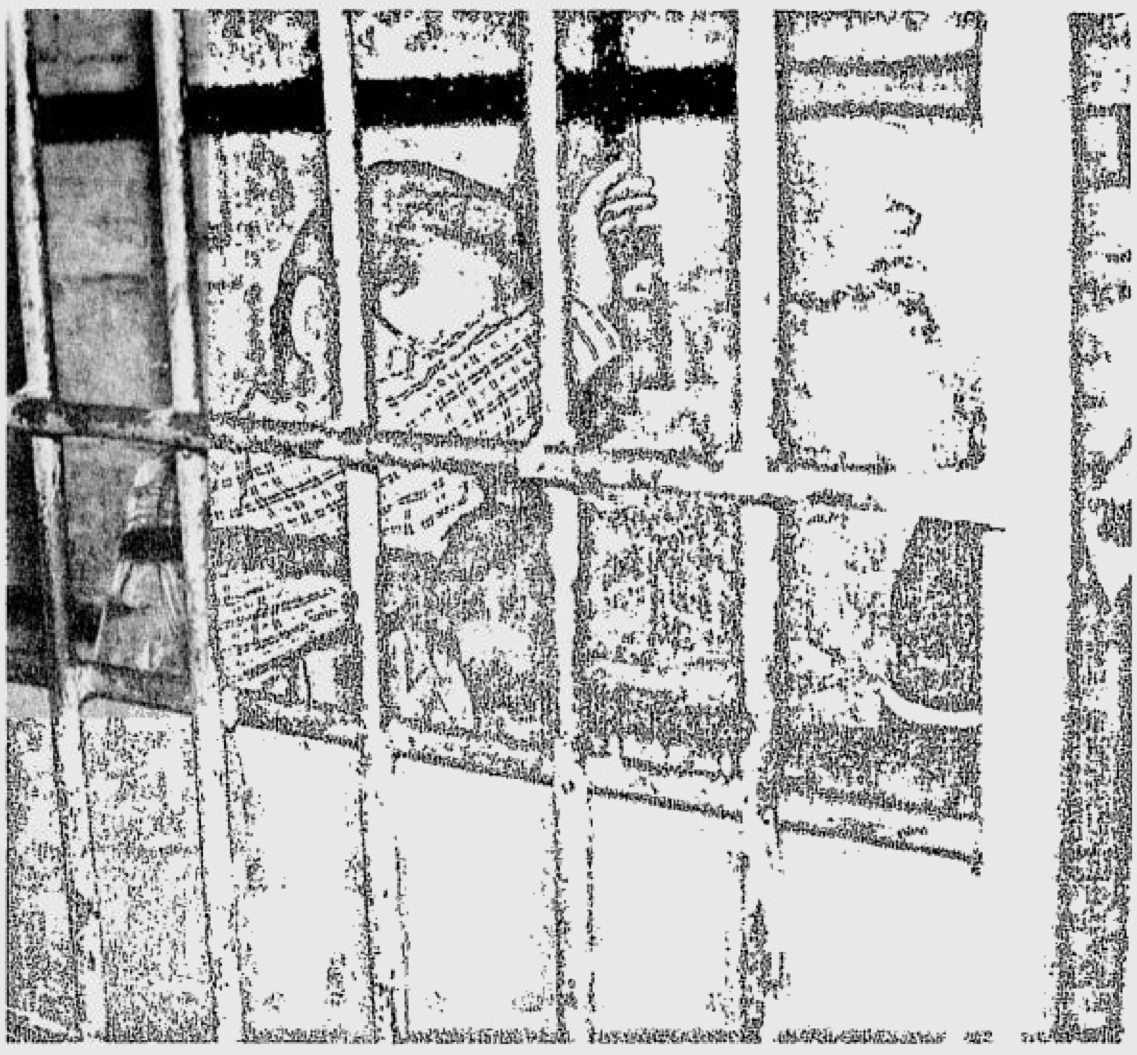
Berroya and Director Eduardo Matillano, erstwhile chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, were among police officials who questioned the revamp and asked Malacañang to exempt them from it, resulting in delays in its implementation.

Matillano, however, accepted his new post as director for investigation and detective management, after a public reconciliation with Ebdane instigated by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

For his part, Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, erstwhile Region 4-A director, said he was accepting his new position of deputy director for operations in the National Capital Region Police Office with some reservation.

"I had second thoughts about accepting the post in deference to some senior officers. But if they think I'm deserving of the position, so be it. I'm a professional; I follow orders," he said in a phone interview.

"It's actually a promotion," added Caringal, who was originally appointed director for Region 12 until he began complaining about the lack of consultation and professionalism in the revamp.



**KOREAN VS KOREAN**
Korean nationals Lee Sang Jin and Yun Ki Young turn camera-shy in the Angeles City jail yesterday after they were arrested for the alleged abduction of another Korean, Ki Choul Yoon, said to be their business partner. Ki's Filipino girlfriend said the three were involved in treasure-hunting activities. Ki was later released unharmed. RLAN N.

# Militants say Corpus up to old tricks

THE MILITANT Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) yesterday dismissed as "nothing but the usual Red Scare tactics" allegations made by former spy chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus that the group had "infiltrated" the Philippine Information Agency, the government's propaganda arm.

"He's using that same old Red Scare tactic but it's falling flat," said Ferdie Gaite, national president of Courage, in an interview. "He's been sidelined that's why he's just using Courage to advance this paranoia of his."

Gaite said the PIA was "not even our affiliate—although we help the employees."

In an interview Friday, Corpus, now chief of the military's Civil Relations Group, said the PIA had been "infiltrated" by members of Courage, but declined to give details.

Corpus, who defected to the communist movement in the '70s, said this was the reason he's pushing for the restoration of the Internal Security Act, a measure designed by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos to thwart the communist threat. *Volt Contreras*

## KIDNAPPING OR COLLECTION?

# Taiwanese abduct Taiwanese

By TJ Burgonio

FOUR Taiwanese nationals were kidnapped by some compatriots in Manila on Friday night, but were released early the following morning after paying P800,000 to their abductors, officials said yesterday.

Bruce Cheng and three Taiwanese associates, who were not identified, were safely back at Cheng's home on Luna Street in Pasay City before 6 a.m. on Saturday.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), was quick to say this was not a kidnapping case, but one of some parties simply collecting some dues.

### Settled case

"As far as we are concerned, this is a settled case. We don't categorize this as a kidnapping," Servando said in a phone interview, adding that the P800,000 was not a ransom payment, but the amount the victims owed their captors.

The Taiwanese resorted to abducting their compatriots to force them to pay up what they owed, Servando said, citing the results of an initial police investigation of the case. Naktaf, however, is pressing ahead with its investigation of the case, he added.

Cheng and his three companions were seized by a group of 10 armed men, which included some Taiwanese, in the vicinity of the Rotary Club of Manila offices, according to Servando. He said one of Cheng's companions managed to escape from the armed men.

### Negotiations

Cheng reportedly negotiated with their Taiwanese captors and, after a few hours, was able to get them to settle for an P800,000 ransom for their freedom. Two of his friends allegedly delivered the money to Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

The victims were freed in Cubao, Quezon City at around 5:30 a.m. on Saturday. Servando did not provide other details of the incident.

The abduction occurred five days after police started conducting "chokepoints" and mobile checkpoints on "11 corridors" leading to Metro Manila in an effort to control the crime rate, particularly heinous crimes like kidnapping, drug trafficking and bank robberies.

To date, several suspected kidnappers and drug pushers have been apprehended at such checkpoints. Alien kidnappings of their own countrymen are not uncommon in the Philippines where there is a sizable number of Taiwanese, Korean, Chinese and Japanese nationals involved in local businesses.

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Judgment in an ejectment suit—The basic issue before us is whether petitioner's members, who were not parties to the unlawful detainer case, may be ejected from the land subject of this case. We rule in the affirmative. It is well-settled that, although an ejectment suit is an action *in personam* wherein the judgment is binding only upon the parties properly impleaded and given an opportunity to be heard, the judgment becomes binding on anyone who has not been impleaded if he or she is: (a) a trespasser, squatter or agent of the defendant fraudulently occupying the property to frustrate the judgment; (b) a guest or occupant of the premises with the permission of the defendant; (c) a transferee pendente lite; (d) a sublessee; (e) a co-lessee or (f) a member of the family, relative or privy of the defendant. In the case at bar, the records show that petitioner's members are trespassers or squatters who do not have any right to occupy the property of respondent. Petitioner does not dispute the ownership of the parcels of land in question. In fact, it even admitted that the subject property is owned by Macaria Maglaqui, mother of private respondent. Petitioner failed to establish any right which would entitle its members to occupy the land in any capacity, whether as lessees, tenants and the like. Petitioner's only defense against the eviction and demolition orders is their supposed non-inclusion in the original detainer case. This defense, however, has no legal support since its members are trespassers or squatters who are bound by the judgment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Corona, Third Division, Sunflower Neighborhood Association vs Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 136274, September 3, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

# Lewd mags, stars warned

THE GOVERNMENT is poised to launch a crackdown on smut tabloids and magazines publishing lewd pictures and go after sexy actresses showing too much skin.

"This is fair warning to publishers of obscene magazines and tabloids: Stop it before it's too late. We will not hesitate to file charges against them. Do not test the waters, so to speak," said Acting Justice Secretary Jose Calida, a born-again Christian.

Noting the resurgence of magazines and tabloids showing bold pictures of women, Calida said the government will not allow this trend to continue.

Calida pointed out that publishing obscene materials is punishable under the Revised Penal Code.

"I will not hesitate to order the National Bureau of Investigation to go after them. This (trend) will result in the moral corruption of the youth and we will not allow that. So, they better exercise prudence," Calida said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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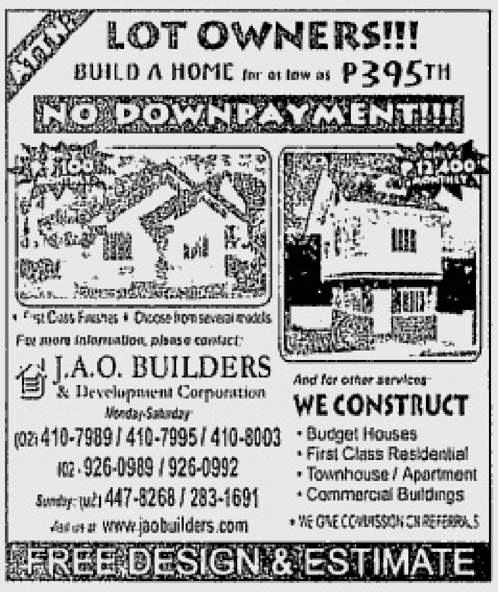

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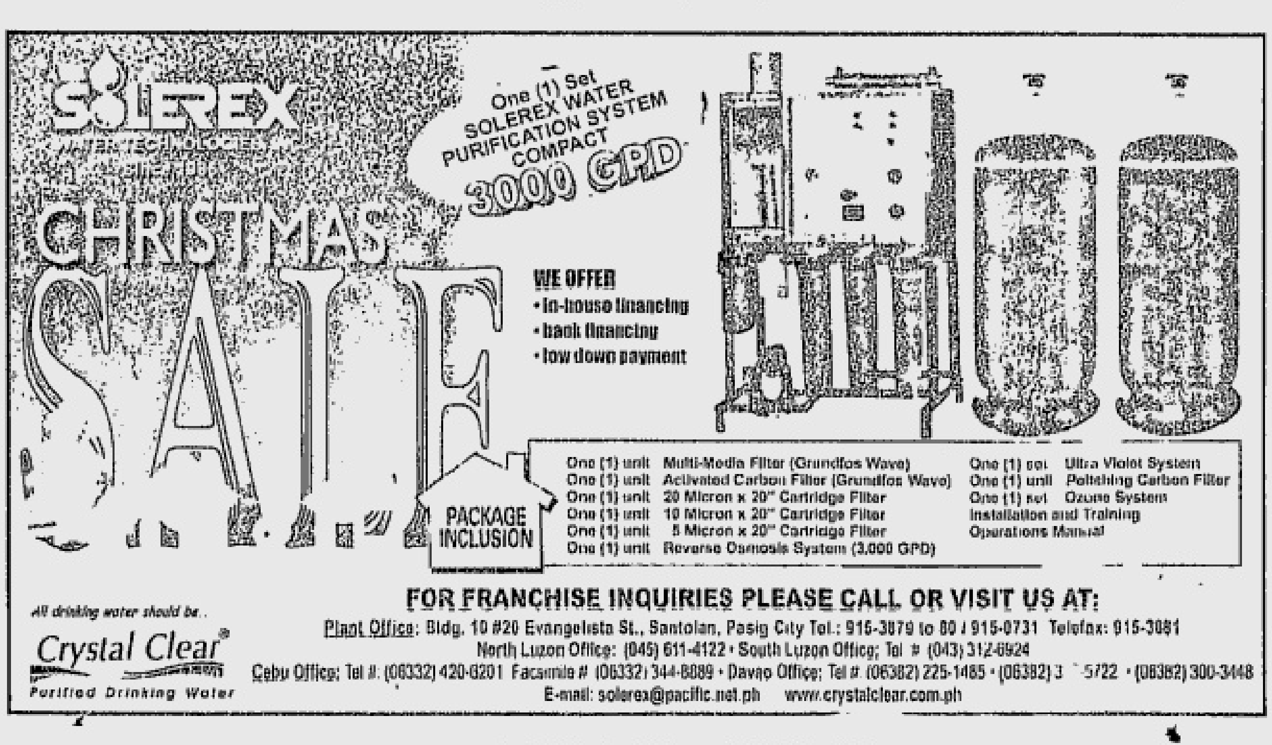

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# Lower prices for PUVs, oil firms urged

A PARTY-LIST representative yesterday urged the government to convince the major oil companies to sell their petroleum products to public utility vehicle (PUV) operators at discounted prices.

Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) issued the call after Caltex Philippines raised the prices of its gasoline, kerosene and diesel products by 30 centavos per liter last Monday due to higher crude oil prices in the world market.

Lokin said the adoption by the oil companies of a discounted pricing scheme for PUVs would effectively prevent bus operators from imposing a new fare increase starting January next year.

Bus operators and drivers have been lobbying for a P2-fare increase to offset losses caused by fluctuating fuel prices. The present minimum fare is P4 for regular buses and P9 for air-conditioned ones.

While government expects fuel prices to drop in January, bus operators were reportedly not inclined to postpone their petitions for a fare increase until next year.

Oil firms like Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell are already offering discounted fuel to public utility jeepneys but only in selected stations.

Lokin said this should be expanded to cover all fuel outlets in the country.

"These discount outlets are scattered only in a few areas, limiting their availability to most jeepney drivers," Lokin said.

According to Lokin, the series of fuel price hikes necessitates the need for a two-level pricing scheme that will benefit public utility vehicles in the form of cheaper fuel prices in all fuel pump stations.

Under a deregulated oil industry, Lokin said, the government can no longer impose price ceiling on petroleum products. Thus, it has no choice but to merely persuade oil companies to adopt its pricing proposals. *Cynthia D. Balana*

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Sunday, December 14, 2003**
**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**1st Reading:** **Zep 3:14-18**

Cry out with joy, O daughter of Zion; rejoice, O people of Israel! Sing joyfully with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

Yahweh has lifted your sentence and has driven your enemies away. Yahweh, the King of Israel is with you; do not fear any misfortune.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem: Do not be afraid nor let your hands tremble, for Yahweh your God is within you, Yahweh, saving warrior. He will jump for joy on seeing you, for he has revived his love. For you he will cry out with joy, as you do in the days of the Feast.

I will drive away the evil I warned you about, and you will no longer be shamed.

**2nd Reading:** **Phil 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice and may everyone experience your gentle and understanding heart. The Lord is near: do not be anxious about anything. In everything resort to prayer and supplication together with thanksgiving and bring your requests before God. Then the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel:** **Lk 3:10-18**

The people asked John, "What are we to do?" And John answered, "If you have two coats, give one to the person who has none; and if you have food, do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized and asked him, "Master, what must we do?" John said to them, "Collect no more than your fixed rate." People serving as soldiers asked John, "What about us? What are we to do?" And he answered, "Don't take anything by force or threaten the people by denouncing them falsely. Be content with your pay."

The people were wondering about John's identity, "Could he be the Messiah?" Then John answered them, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is coming will do much more: he will baptize you with Holy Spirit and fire. As for me, I am not worthy to untie his sandal. He comes with a winnowing fan to clear his threshing floor and gather the grain into his barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out."

With these and many other words John announced the Good News to the people.

**Commentary**

*The irruption of John the Baptist presupposes the coming of a prophet, a precursor that prepares the way and put in question the lives of people. The prophet denounces the dominion of sins and evils in the world and at the same time announces the good news of hope for the coming of God's reign (kingdom). There are prophets, precursors and pioneers that open new roads to humanity. They are the ones helping us to prepare the advent of God. The message of advent is found in the words of John the Baptist: "I baptize you with water, but the one who is coming will do much more; he will baptize you with Holy Spirit and fire. As for me, I am not worthy to untie his sandal." John admits being sent to prepare the coming of Jesus. He is not Jesus. He affirms that the one who follows him is more powerful than he is. "He must increase while I must decrease," says John. The authority and credibility of John is rooted in his humble testimony as a precursor. His power rests on the authority of God who sends him to prepare the coming of the Messiah, the bringer of true salvation.*

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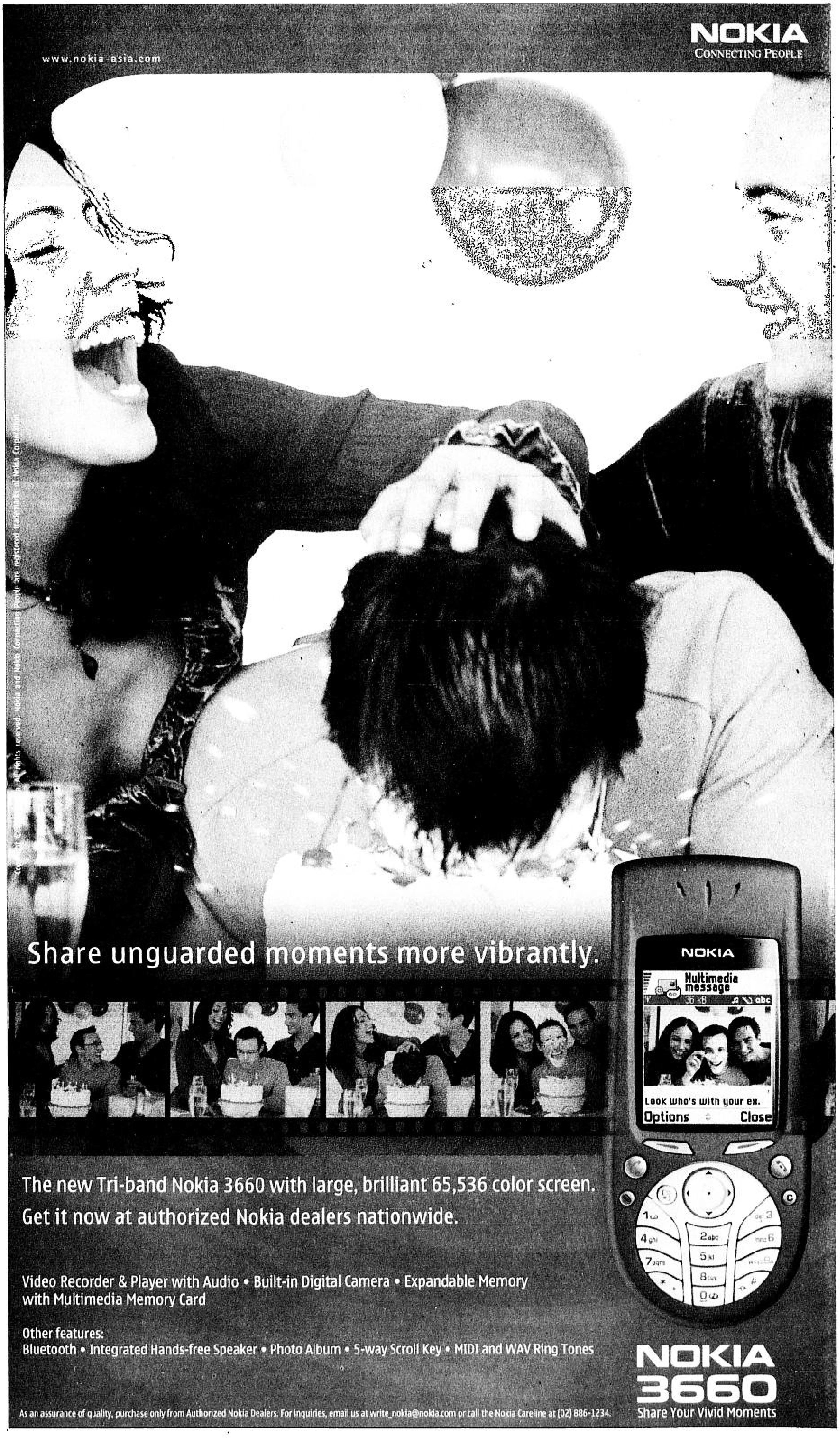
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TREKKING through the campaign trail in Las Piñas on Saturday, President Macapagal (right photo) does all the right things to win friends and influence voters. Same thing with the city's bigwigs along with those from Muntinlupa, Cavite and Laguna who inaugurate a road linking those areas. From left are Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Las Piñas Mayor Nene Aguilar, Sen. Manny Villar with his wife Rep. Cynthia Villar and Bacoor Mayor Jesse Castillo.

RANDY HORMILLOSA/JESS YUSON

# RP lands 4th in SEA Games with 48 gold medals

From page A1

tourism sports director Cynthia Carreon, who represented Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon, during the closing ceremony Saturday night.

## Golden doubles

World-class wushu athletes Arvin Ting and Willy Wang pulled off golden doubles early in the day in an impressive follow-up to a couple of victories by teammates Eduard Folayang and Dolly Andres in the sanshou (sparring) events late Friday night as the Filipinos finally overtook the Malaysians in the overall race.

Ting, only 15 but already the world broad sword champion, topped his favorite event to go with an earlier win in the gunshu (staff) category Thursday. Wang, 19, struck in the sword category after ruling the qianshu (spear play) class also Thursday.

## Most successful

Grandmaster-candidate Paragua, who won two golds in the individual and team divisions of rapid chess, registered the lone win that rewarded RP another gold in the team standard chess and became the most successful among the 444 athletes that competed here in 28 of 32 sports.

With Paragua in the team were GMs Eugene Torre, who settled for the bronze in the individual standard chess, Joey Antonio, Bong Villamayor and Asian Zonal champion Ronald Dableo.The women's chess team also placed third.

The national dribblers won the men's basketball gold for the fifth time since 1991 in Manila by blasting Malaysia, 90-61, even as their female counterparts wound up with the bronze after losing to Singapore, 44-40.

## Bonus

A golden bonus came in the 500-meter traditional boat race where the Filipinos outrowed a Burma team with a time of 2 minutes 17.02 seconds.

The women's sabre fencing team led by individual foil champion Lenita Reyes wound up second behind Thailand. The other RP members were Joanna Franquelli, Jocelyn Naval and Veena Tessa Nuestro.

The wushu team finished with six golds overall, the second biggest haul for the country after the eight victories registered by the athletics squad.

## More silvers than Malaysia

Folayang won in the 70-kg division and Andres prevailed in the 52-kg class, boosting the Filipinos to fourth overall before they called it a day Friday by tying the Malaysians' 43 golds but moving ahead in ranking by having more silvers, 52-31.

When Ting and Wang delivered the following morning, the Filipinos were on their way to fourth as Malaysia ran out of victories.

The 19-year-old Paragua, former under-14 world champion, downed Pham Ming Hoan of Vietnam as the Filipinos amassed 2.5 points in the final round to finish with 23 and nip the Indonesians by half a point for the gold.

But the Indons finished 1-2 in the individual category with GM Utut Adianto winning with 7.5 points and Susanto Megaranto nosing out Torre for the silver in the tiebreak that decided their deadlock at 6.5.

## Win in 17 events

All told, the Filipinos triumphed in 17 events with taekwondo accounting for five golds and fencing matching the four victories in wrestling, whose acting president Red Dumuk Jr. tendered his resignation for the failure of his boys to grab at least five golds.

Chess and judo scored three times each, two golds were submitted by swimming, diving and billiards while avoiding golden shutouts were shooting, karatedo, cycling, archery and boxing.

Aside from wushu's Ting and Wang, the other double gold medalists were diver Rexel Ryan Fabriga, Lee Van Corteza in billiards and wrestler Marcus Valda and GMs Torre, Antonio and Villamayor.

## How much

The Philippine Sports Commission spent about P100 million for the training of the athletes, who also benefited from the P22 million donated by the business community through a fund-raising drive by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Another P111 million was spent by government for the actual participation of the 655-strong delegation.

# San Francisco school has Tagalog program

From page A1

Filipino Education Center on Sherman street in the South of Market area in downtown San Francisco.

Bessie Carmichael is currently the only elementary school in the United States that has an English-Tagalog bilingual program. One of the 160 schools covered by the San Francisco Unified School District, it is also classified as a newcomer school.

At Bessie Carmichael, newly arrived Filipino immigrant children can easily make the transition from the Philippine to the US school system.

The majority—close to 60 percent—of its students are of Filipino ancestry. Coming close, but not quite, are the Hispanic-Americans at 23 percent. (There is also an English-Spanish bilingual program.)

The rest of the students are Asian-American, African-American and white (non-Hispanic).

Bessie Carmichael is predominantly a school for students whose primary language is not English. It has six levels—from kindergarten to the fifth grade.

## Filipino teachers

Science, math, reading and language arts are taught by Filipino teachers who are proficient both in English and Tagalog. Most of the teachers have been teaching there for the last 10 to 20 years.

But it was only within the last three years that the Filipino Education Center (FEC) was integrated into Bessie Carmichael. Since then, it has run the bilingual programs that were formerly taught at the FEC.

The facility that used to house the FEC is now devoted to after-school programs, the anchor program being the "Galing Bata" that aims to provide stimulating extracurricular activities for Filipino students.

## Pinoy principal

Bessie Carmichael had its very first Filipino principal starting schoolyear 2003-04.

Jeffrey Burgos, a business management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, had spent the last 15 years of his life in Guam both as teacher and principal of two of the largest public high schools on the island.

Burgos took graduate studies in education at Stanford University in Northern California during his tenure in Guam. But coming to the US mainland early this year with his young family in tow was a big challenge for Burgos who, despite his years of experience in Guam, was initially met with skepticism and a degree of discrimination at some of the schools to which he applied.

## Getting people together

Burgos feels that the post at Bessie Carmichael is a godsend. He says the offer fell on his lap.

He starts this new chapter in his life during challenging times. There is still much bitterness among the parents and faculty over the integration of the FEC into Bessie Carmichael, but there is also much excitement and hope at the prospect of a new and bigger school facility set to open next schoolyear.

Construction is currently in full swing just across the street from where the old, somewhat dilapidated facility now stands.

"I think my job here this schoolyear is to bring people together," Burgos says. "There are many issues but I know they can be solved,"

## Like his own

The tall and amiable Burgos treats the students like his own.

He has been involved with the school only since July but he has gradually won the hearts of the students, faculty and parents.

He is very approachable and easily warms up to people, and they, to him.

"In spite of the problems, enjoy *ako dito*," he says, smiling. "It's just like being home so I really look forward to each day."

He is equally proud of the Filipinos who teach there: "*Iba talaga sila* (They're really different). Their dedication to the craft is most admirable."

## Like home

Indeed, a visit to the school grounds will remind one of home.

At lunchtime the picnic area is filled with *lolas* waiting for their grandchildren to emerge.

Bundled in sweaters, they come daily to the school, walking several blocks to bring their wards hot lunches. They sit on wooden benches, sharing meals of piping-hot *adobo* and *pancit* while talking about the latest political and show biz news from back home.

*Lola* Simeona, a San Francisco resident for the last 10 years, has been helping her daughter and son-in-law raise their two boys. Her husband works as a security guard in an office building downtown.

## Bittersweet

Yet the longing to go home remains strong in Lola Simeona's heart.

"*Masaya na mahirap dito, lalo na pag nagkasakit ka,*" she says of the bitter-sweet life of an immigrant.

She also says she will give it three more years before she and her husband head home.

The children whose *lolas* care for them are so much more blessed than those who hardly get to see their parents, Burgos says.

He relates a heart-breaking incident, when he asked a group of students who among them did not see their parents in the morning when they woke up, and were already asleep when their parents came home at night.

He says he was shocked to see the number of hands that shot up—about three-fourths of the whole class.

"That's why we want Bessie to be like a home for these children, too," Burgos says.

## 'We were set up'

But Teresita Dulalas, who has a child at Bessie Carmichael, says the Filipino residents of South of Market were very hurt when the FEC was integrated into the school.

"We really feel that we were set up [by the government] because they want to use this building [where the FEC is housed] for other purposes," says the second-generation Filipino-American and long-time resident of the area.

"We fought so hard for this," she adds. "It's so difficult for our voice to be heard. We were up against giants."

Dulalas says that while they are happy with the prospect of moving their children into a spanking-new building next year, the fight to have the name FEC attached to the name Bessie Carmichael has been long and difficult.

WHERE in the world do grandmas bring hot lunches to their grandchildren? Only in the Philippines here transplanted to the picnic area of the Bessie Carmichael Elementary School in South of Market in downtown San Francisco.

## Irony

Even more painful is the irony that some teachers and parents are not at all supportive of the English-Tagalog bilingual program, she says.

Indeed, not all the Filipino students attend the bilingual classes.

Many of them are children of newly arrived immigrants who are convinced that the Tagalog language is "useless" in the United States. Shunning everything Filipino, they wish to embrace everything American.

Thankfully, a few new arrivals and old-time residents continue to believe in the system and support it.

Burgos' biggest challenge for the next schoolyear is to increase the school's enrollment so that the new facility will be sustainable.

"We have a very good program and we're constantly improving," he says. We also have excellent teachers."

## Genuinely happy

More importantly, the children seem genuinely happy.

"We care for our own," Dulalas says. "It's difficult enough to live in America. South of Market is not exactly an affluent area, so we really need to watch out for each other. And so far, it's been working."

Dulalas hopes that the government will instead convert the current FEC facility into a middle school with an English-Tagalog bilingual program, one that the Bessie Carmichael students can move into after leaving the fifth grade.

## Roots

"Being bilingual is an advantage nowadays. It also helps the children keep their roots," she says.

Dulalas is actively involved in the Parent-Teacher Association and in the FEC's after-school programs.

"Every day, after school, we bring around 60 children to the FEC and conduct both academic and non-academic programs for them," she says. "There is peer tutoring, which we have found very helpful, and a lot of crafts classes. This Christmas we are teaching them how to make *parol*(lanterns), which we plan to decorate the streets with."

For 11-year-old Charmaine, who migrated to San Francisco with her parents and younger brother three years ago, the bilingual classes are her links to home.

"I still have friends [in the Philippines] and we write each other," she says. Charmaine and her brother speak English as if it were their native language and Tagalog like they had never left the Philippines. They end their sentences with *po* and *opo* and are fluent in read, spoken or sung Tagalog.

## Best of 2 worlds

With their classmates they talk about American pop icons like Mandy Moore, but are also conversant of the saga of Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa in "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

"When you are in a bilingual class, you have the best of both worlds," says Burgos.

How true. Sitting in on a fifth-grade bilingual class and hearing the dark- haired students sing "Ako Ay Pilipino" against the backdrop of an American flag, one feels the heart swell with pride.

Hopefully, these children will always carry the best of their heritage in their hearts wherever life in America may take them.

## The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Specter of failure hangs over EU charter summit

**BRUSSELS—European leaders were resuming behind-closed-doors wrangling Saturday aimed at finalizing a deal on a historic EU constitution, with high-stakes brinkmanship threatening to descend into outright fiasco.**

As dawn broke to a steady drizzle reflecting the gloomy mood here, two years of constitution making hinged on new proposals presented by the European Union's Italian presidency, diplomats said, after talks on Friday failed to make any headway.

The ideas were being thrashed out in one-on-one meetings between Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his EU partners, before being taken up by the leaders of all 25 present and future EU nations later in the morning.

Berlusconi has said a "miracle" is needed to get an agreement at the Brussels summit, and on Friday raised the prospect of leaving the mess to Ireland to sort out when it assumes the EU's presidency from Italy on Jan. 1.

But others have said divine intervention would be superfluous if the maverick Italian leader had given the constitutional talks more direction, rather than pulling ideas out of the bag at the last minute.

"We haven't got anywhere. And I'm very skeptical about the possibility of getting an agreement on a text," Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said.

At stake is a landmark treaty designed to get the EU's creaking institutions in shape for the bloc's biggest enlargement yet, with 10 more countries due to join on May 1.

Spain and the biggest of the 10 newcomers, Poland, were taking the summit down to the wire by refusing to cede generous voting rights they secured in the EU's 2000 Nice Treaty.

That document and a raft of other EU treaties are supposed to be supplanted by the new constitution, which was drafted over a period of 17 months by a convention chaired by former French president Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

The convention text proposes some notable innovations that have won general support, including an elected president and foreign minister to give the EU a much higher profile on the world stage.

But it has run into trouble by suggesting the European Commission be slimmed down to 15 voting members after the enlargement, angering smaller countries which see the EU's executive branch as a guarantor of their interests.

That row appears to have been shelved with the Italians indicating that each EU member state will continue to be represented in Brussels, at least for a transitional phase.

Some form of compromise wording is also expected on a matter exercising Catholic EU members—whether the constitution's preamble should make an explicit reference to Europe's Christian heritage.

Where there is no agreement yet, and no sign of an agreement, is on the question of voting rights.

The convention text proposes to scrap the EU's qualified majority voting system, which assigns a different number of votes to each country based loosely on the size of its population. *AFP*

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ALIYEV

## Ex-Azerbaijan president Aliyev dies in US at 80

CHICAGO/BAKU—Former Azeri President Haydar Aliyev, a wily KGB boss who came to dominate politics in his volatile oil-rich country for three decades, died on Friday, just weeks after handing over power to his son Ilham.

From his hospital bed, Aliyev, 80, witnessed the dynastic succession in October elections denounced by the opposition as rigged but which reassured investors seeking continuity in the predominantly Muslim former Soviet republic.

The United States and Russia, the major powers with interests in the region, accepted the poll as legitimate.

Earlier this month, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said ties between Washington and Azerbaijan would continue to grow.

Aliyev, who had a history of poor health and collapsed during a speech in April, died in a US clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, where he went in August for treatment for congestive heart failure and kidney problems.

The death of Aliyev, who embraced the Western market economy and Islamic religion and broke with his earlier communist ways, is unlikely to affect the political situation in Azerbaijan as his son has pledged to uphold his policies.

In Baku, independent ANS TV station reported that Ilham had returned to the Azeri capital from a UN information technology conference in Geneva and was meeting ministers at the airport.

Critics said Aliyev stifled dissent and ensured a personality cult with ubiquitous portraits and slogans. Admirers credited him with bringing stability to the troubled Central Asian state. He played rivals off against one another.

The man dubbed "baba" (grandfather) by many Azeris got his start in the notorious Soviet KGB security police. After an alleged coup and assassination plots in 1994 and 1995, his position became unassailable.

Stability in Azerbaijan is important to global oil giants, such as BP, which have invested heavily in the country. In addition, the United States sees Azerbaijan as a potential alternative source of oil to the Gulf region.

The US state department issued a statement offering its "deepest sympathy" to Aliyev's family and the government and people of Azerbaijan on his death. *Reuters*

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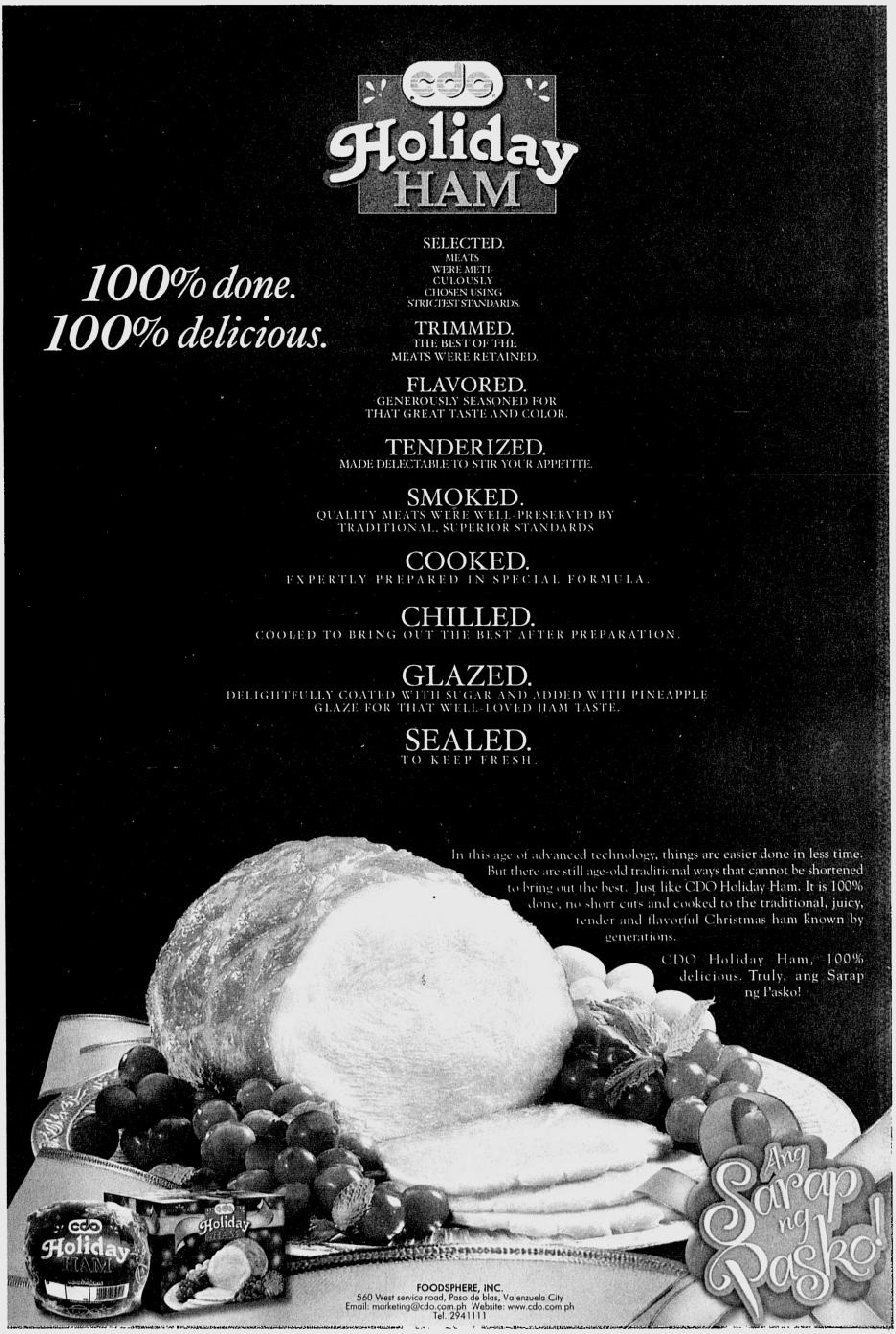

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# Halliburton must refund excess billings, says Bush

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush has said he thinks Vice President Dick Cheney's old company, Halliburton, overcharged for work it did in Iraq and that he expects the firm to refund the money.

"If there is an overcharge, like we think there is, we expect that money to be repaid," Bush said Friday, amid charges by Pentagon officials that a Halliburton subsidiary charged $61 million more than it should have for gasoline.

Bush spoke after US defense department officials said Thursday that an audit unearthed evidence of irregularities in contracts held by the Halliburton subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown and Root. The company has denied any overcharging.

"I appreciate the Pentagon looking out after the taxpayers' money," said Bush. "They felt like there was an overcharge issue. They put the issue right out there on the table for everybody to see and they're doing good work."

The subsidiary was awarded two contracts in November, a Pentagon source said: $7 billion to restore Iraqi oil facilities, and $8.6 billion to provide logistical support for US troops in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Irregularities were found "in both contracts," the source said.

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the gasoline prices charged were based on those the firm paid to a Kuwaiti subcontractor. "I don't think it's a systematic problem of overcharging," the official said.

The Pentagon's probe into the matter "will lay the facts out for everybody to see," Bush promised. "We're going to make sure that, as we spend the money in Iraq, that it's spent well and spent wisely."

But the flap over Halliburton, which Cheney ran until he joined Bush on the 2000 Republican ticket, embarrassed the United States at a time when it faces criticism from traditional European allies for excluding opponents of the war in Iraq from competing for US-funded contracts worth some $18.6 billion.

The Pentagon announced earlier this week that firms from countries that opposed the US-led invasion last March—including Canada, France, Germany and Russia—could only seek less lucrative subcontracts.

The announcement angered the excluded countries even as Bush's special envoy, former secretary of state James Baker, heads to Europe next week to seek help in reducing Iraq's crippling debt, estimated at some $120 billion.

Baker, a longtime Bush family troubleshooter, leaves Monday on a swing that will take him to France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Britain before reporting back to White House.

Bush spokesperson Scott McClellan denied that the Pentagon's announcement was timed to give Baker leverage in talks on the debt, saying: "I wouldn't look at it in that way at all."

White House officials, speaking on condition they not be named, denied that questions about Halliburton would have any impact on the negotiations.

KBR has hit back strongly at what it called "inaccurate media reports."

It said in a statement that the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) was "conducting a routine audit and has requested additional information from KBR.

"There have been no conclusions reached and this is a normal part of the audit process for the DCAA to raise questions and request additional materials.

"We are simply providing additional documentation that the DCAA needs and feel confident our responses will satisfy the DCAA."

The statement said "it would not be appropriate to discuss the specifics of the questions until our conversations with DCAA are complete." *AFP*

**MISS UNIVERSE IN SILK**

**Miss Universe Amelia Vega shows off a Thai silk outfit during a charity fashion show in Bangkok, Dec. 12. Vega, who is on a weeklong visit to Thailand, participated in a fashion show that was organized to honor Her Majesty the Queen's 72nd birthday and to promote Thai silk outfits.** AFP

# UK tourist stuck in Australian desert dies

SYDNEY—A British tourist has died after walking 40 km in sweltering heat to find help when his car got stuck in the Australian desert, police said Saturday.

Thomas Henry Sykes, 35, from London, died Friday at the Punmu Aboriginal Community nursing post in remote Western Australia state. He had been found alive, slipping in and out of consciousness, about 20 km away from the township.

Sgt. Mike Gough said Sykes' car had been discovered by two motorists a day earlier where it became bogged, about 60 km east of the Punmu settlement in the Pilbara region of northern Western Australia.

Aboriginal trackers were employed to search for Sykes, but a sandstorm stopped them from finding him on Thursday. He was found early Friday morning, Gough said.

"Temperatures were in the mid-40s degrees Celsius (around 104.00 Fahrenheit)," Gough said. "Without water and shelter you have a survival estimate of less than two days in these parts."

Constable Cindy Morgan from nearby Marble Bar police said Sykes was attempting to drive thousands of kilometers across the dry, rugged Outback to eastern Australia.

Morgan said he was ill-prepared for such a hazardous journey, having failed to take the proper emergency equipment and with a limited water supply.

"The unfortunate thing was he didn't have a satellite phone or (emergency beacon) and I guess it's a timely reminder to let people know when you are in a country where it's quite extreme... that you must go prepared," Morgan told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. *AP*

# Deaths, barricades in Haiti's worst unrest in years

PORT-AU-PRINCE—Thousands of Haitians burned tires and erected barricades Friday in rallies for and against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in which at least four people have died in two days of unrest.

One person died in the capital when gunfire rang out from a passing vehicle. Clouds of smoke rose over roads blocked by flaming tires. Stones injured several people, witnesses said.

Three people died Thursday when demonstrators clashed with police and armed opponents of Aristide in the coastal town of Gonaives, a local journalist said. Nineteen people have been killed and 71 injured in clashes in Gonaives since Sept. 23.

More than 1,000 supporters of Aristide massed in a show of support in the capital, while another rally of several thousand, mainly students, demanded the diminutive, bespectacled former priest step aside ahead of his term's end in 2006.

Police used tear gas and fired into the air to disperse the anti-Aristide demonstrators. Andre Apaid, who leads the Group of 184 civilian anti-Aristide coalition, rallied fellow protesters.

In a statement broadcast late Friday, Prime Minister Yvon Neptune said Aristide and his government were "determined to protect the citizens and guarantee their rights."

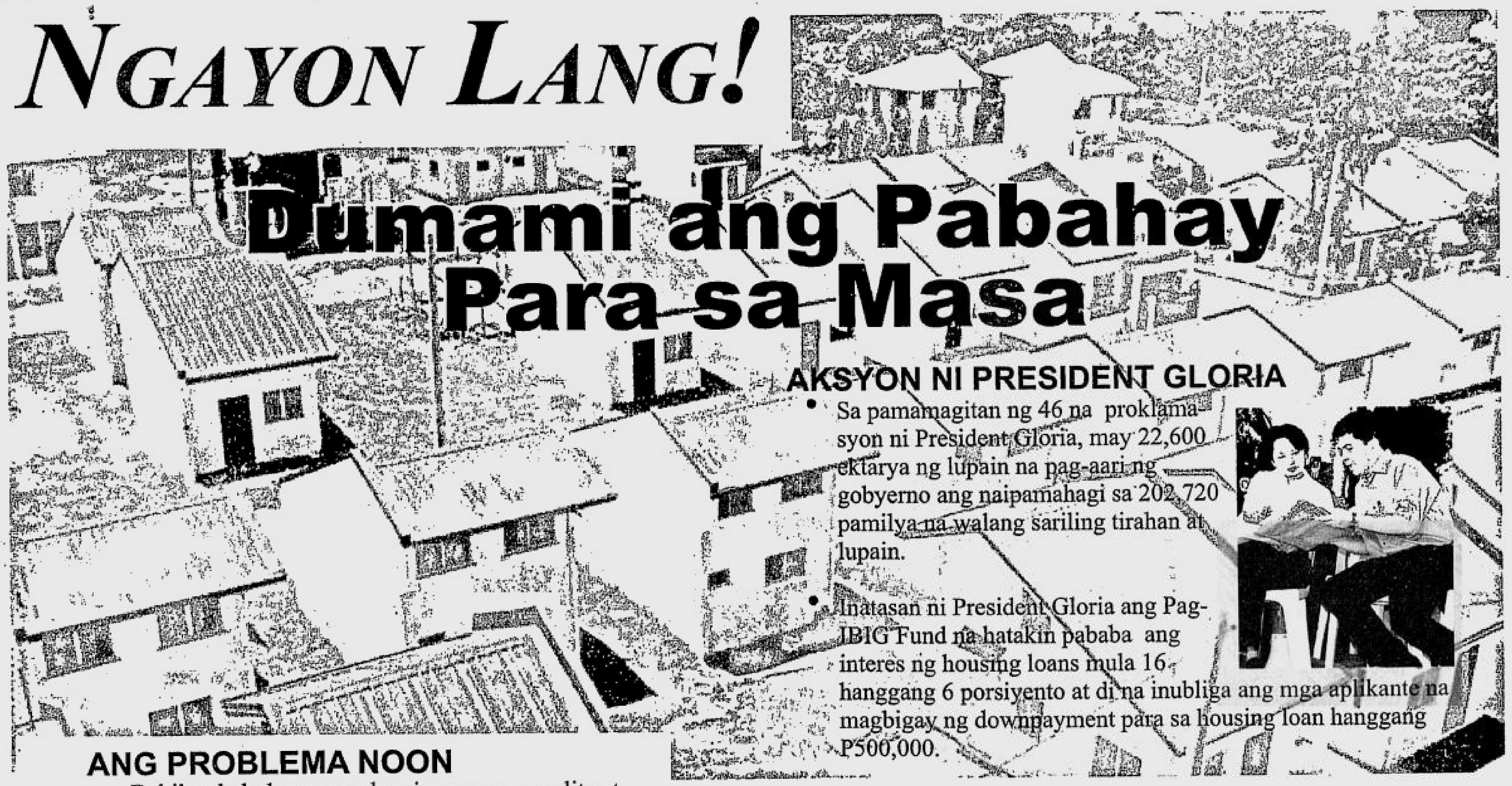
"Everyone has the right to speak and to assemble," Neptune said in a statement read over local radio stations by Communications Secretary Mario Dupuis.

Several local radio stations reported that armed backers of Aristide seized a national police arms stockpile in Port-au-Prince.

The US Embassy shut its doors and asked staff to remain home for security reasons.

Aristide took office in 2001 and was due to serve through 2006. But political tensions have been mounting for months.

Aristide supporters broke into a national police armory in northeastern Port-au-Prince Friday, loading their vehicles with weapons and heading back to their neighborhoods in the north of the capital, according to several local radio stations. *AFP*



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- Inatasan ni President Gloria ang Pag-IBIG Fund na hatakin pababa ang interes ng housing loans mula 16 hanggang 6 porsiyento at di na inubliga ang mga aplikante na magbigay ng downpayment para sa housing loan hanggang P500,000.
- Sa utos ng Pangulo, itinaas ang pondo ng pabahay mula P10 bilyon hanggang P20 bilyon ngayong taon at sa pamumuno ni Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, pinaiksi ang processing time ng housing permits mula 90 araw hanggang 30-45 araw na lamang at pinaunti ang signatories mula 228 hanggang 40 na lamang.

ANG PROBLEMA NOON

Dahil sa kakulangan ng lupain para sa maralita at sa taas ng interes at mahabang proseso ng housing loan, nanatiling panaginip para sa mga mahihirap na Pilipino ang magkaroon ng sariling bahay at lupa.

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"Binigyan ko ng diin ang pabahay ng bawat maralita at manggagawa"
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# Fading Afghan security may force UN withdrawal

KABUL—Already forced out of Iraq by suicide bombers, the United Nations may have to abandon its two-year effort to stabilize Afghanistan because of rising violence blamed on the Taliban, its top official here warned in an interview with The Associated Press.

Lakhdar Brahimi said his team could not continue its work in this war-ravaged nation unless security improves and called for more foreign troops to halt attacks that have killed at least 11 aid workers across the south and east since March.

"Countries that are committed to supporting Afghanistan cannot kid themselves and cannot go on expecting us to work in unacceptable security conditions," Brahimi said Friday.

"They seem to think that our presence is important here. Well, if they do, they have got to make sure that the conditions for us to be here are there," he said. "If not, we will go away."

The world body pulled its foreign staff out of vast areas of the country in October after the death of Bettina Goislard, a 29-year-old French refugee worker assassinated in the eastern city of Ghazni. It also suspended some operations in regions bordering Pakistan, where Taliban militants and their allies have been most active.

The pullback followed a similar draw down in Iraq, where an August truck bomb that killed 23 people at the UN headquarters in Baghdad sparked the withdrawal of international UN staff.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that Iraq is still too dangerous. Most UN functions in Iraq are to operate from a new regional base in Nicosia, Cyprus, with local staff trying to fill the gap.

UN calls for international troops to fan out across Afghanistan's troubled provinces grew shrill aft Goislard became the first intern tional UN worker killed here sin the fall of the Taliban in late 2001

Nato, which commands a 5,50 strong peacekeeping force in t capital, Kabul, has agreed in prin ple to expand into the provinces. B nations have been slow to come f ward with pledges of troops.

**LUCIA DAY**

Swedish children dressed as Santa Lucia, Santa Claus and the traditional brown Swedish ginger cookies celebrate Lucia Day in a Stockholm kindergarden Dec. 12. Lucia is traditionaly celebrated in Sweden Dec. 13, a day when Lucia and her lightgirls appear almost everywhere from schools to workplaces, where with songs, coffee and special safran bread they spread a happy atmosphere. AFP

# Bush signs Syria sanctions measure

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush signed legislation Friday that aims to punish Syria for alleged ties to terrorists, tacit support for insurgents in Iraq, and efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction.

"Today, I have signed into law HR 1828, the 'Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003,'" Bush said in a statement released by the White House.

The bill demands that Syria end support for terrorism; halt the development of chemical and biological arms as well as medium- and long-range missiles; and withdraw the roughly 20,000 troops it has deployed in Lebanon.

It also calls on the governments of Lebanon and Syria to "enter into serious unconditional bilateral negotiations" with Israel in order to secure "a full and permanent peace."

And it says Syria must close its borders to any military equipment and anti-US militants bound for Iraq, where US-led forces have weathered deadly attacks since ousting Saddam Hussein in April.

The legislation directs the president to prohibit US exports to Syria of weaponry and so-called "dual-use" technology with both civilian and military applications and to pick two from a range of sanctions.

They include restricting US exports and business investment, downgrading US-Syrian diplomatic ties, imposing travel restrictions on Syrian diplomats in the United States, freezing Syria's assets in the United States, and restricting overflight rights for Syrian aircraft inside US airspace.

Bush's statement included traditional language indicating he construed the law's requirements as tools, not directives limiting the White House's historical prerogatives in shaping foreign policy.

"My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the various statements of policy in the Act as US foreign policy," Bush added.

The measure cleared both chambers of the US Congress by overwhelming margins, and Bush ended two years of quiet opposition to the measure in early October after lawmakers granted him the power to waive the sanctions. *AFP*

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# Canada's Martin names 20 new faces in Cabinet

OTTAWA—Freshly inaugurated Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin hit the ground running Friday, announcing naming a Cabinet with 20 new faces and dumping some long-time party faithfuls on the way.

Admitting his program was ambitious, Martin vowed to clean up the government's image—after a series of scandals surrounded several former ministers, improve relations with the United States and maintain a tight fiscal policy.

At a press conference, Martin deftly sidestepped a question on when he will call a general election. Most insiders, including members of Martin's own team, believe the next election will be held in April or May.

That gives Martin just four or five months to make his own mark politically as he leads his party to what he hopes will be an unprecedented fourth consecutive election victory.

Martin's stamp was clearly placed on the new Cabinet.

With 39 members, it is the largest in Canadian history. Twenty of those ministers are new to the Cabinet, and many of the 19 holdovers found themselves with different portfolios.

One of the few to keep his old job is Foreign Minister Bill Graham who was known to be keener than outgoing prime minister Jean Chretien to work closely with Washington on major international issues.

Washington was obviously a major factor in many of Martin's selections.

The new Deputy Prime Minister is Anne McLellan who, as Martin's right-hand in the cabinet, will have responsibility for homeland security and for negotiating with the Americans on any matters of North American collective security.

Martin has also appointed a high-profile politician, Scott Brison, as his own parliamentary secretary with the single job of looking after Canada-US relations.

Brison joined Martin's Liberal Party last week, less than six months after running unsuccessfully for the leadership of the opposition Progressive Conservative Party.

But, so far, there are no plans for Martin to visit Washington or for US President George W. Bush to visit Ottawa.

Martin said Friday that the two men will have a telephone conversation on Monday and would meet next month on the sidelines of a Summit of the Americas in Mexico.

But the message Martin is already sending to Bush is positive.

The new defense minister is David Pratt, who as chair of the House of Commons defense committee earlier this year, publicly called on Ottawa to join Bush's "coalition of the willing" to invade Iraq.

As far as defense is concerned, Martin was cautious at his first formal press conference, although he said that one of his priorities is to replace Canada's aging ship-based Sea King helicopters. *AFP*

# Another GI dies from Iraq booby trap

BAGHDAD — Another US soldier has been killed and two more wounded by an Improvised Explosive Device or booby-trapped bomb in the rebellious Sunni belt west of Baghdad, a military spokesperson said Saturday.

A convoy from the 82nd Airborne Division ran into the favored weapon of the anti-coalition forces on Friday near Ramadi, a day after a suicide bomber blew up a truck at the Task Force's headquarters on the edge of the town, killing one and wounding 14.

"At approximately 6:30 a.m. yesterday (Friday) Task Force All American was attacked with IED near Ramadi," 100 km west of the capital.

"Three soldiers were wounded. They were medivaced to the 28th Combat Hospital in Baghdad where one soldier died," later in the day, the spokesperson said.

The death brought to 197 the number of US soldiers who have died in fighting in Iraq since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1. More than 2,200 US troops have also been wounded over the same period.

A IED wounded two Polish sappers Friday in a coalition convoy south of the Iraqi capital, a multinational force spokesperson said. *AFP*

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# Peru president demands ministers' resignations

LIMA—Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo demanded late Friday the resignation of his entire government in an obvious attempt to defuse a politically damaging sex scandal involving Prime Minister Beatriz Merino.

The move came as opinion polls showed the president's popularity rating plunged to a new low of only 13 percent.

"In line with rights granted to him by the constitution, President Alejandro Toledo asked today for the resignation of the chair of the Council of Ministers as well as all the members of the cabinet," read a statement issued by the presidential palace.

It said a new cabinet would be announced when Merino returns on Monday from a trip to the United States.

Toledo also asked for the resignation of all of his advisers, many of whom have been harshly criticized in the news media and even by members of his own party, Peru Posible.

The sacking of the adviser was largely anticipated as Peruvian Vice President David Waisman has repeatedly said in recent days that some errors committed by the government were due to poor advice given to Toledo.

The scandal was triggered last month by rumor alleging that Merino was a lesbian.

Peru is a predominantly Catholic country where homosexuality is frowned upon.

Merino, who has an approval rating of between 60 percent and 65 percent, responded by telling reporters that she was a victim of a smear campaign orchestrated by a former prime minister and now a leading legislator, Luis Solari.

She insisted the smear campaign, launched "by dark forces," was aimed at thwarting needed economic reforms that she had proposed.

Merino is seen as a possible presidential candidate for the 2006 election. *AFP*

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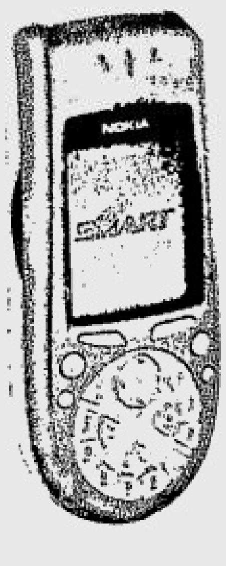

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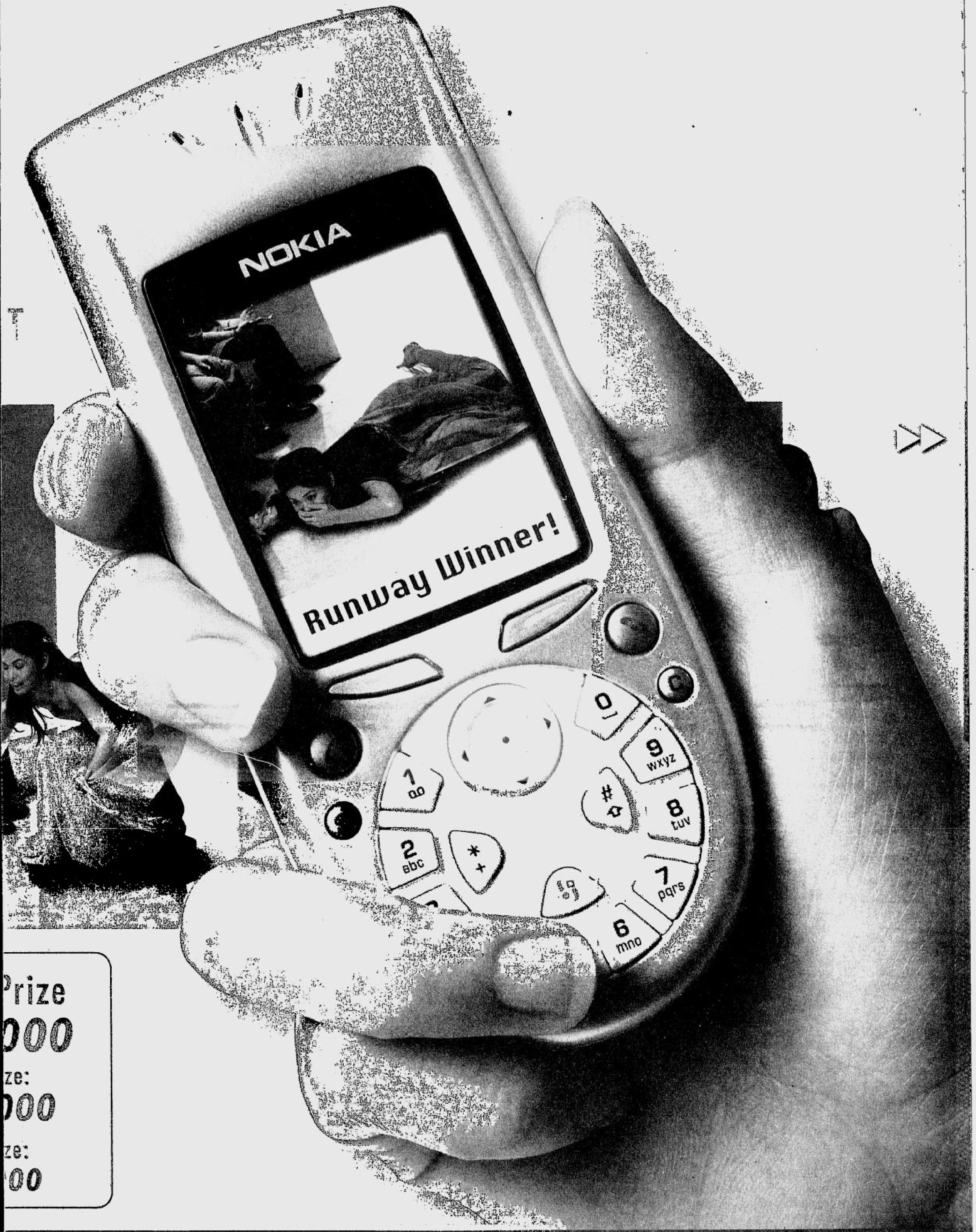

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# OPINION

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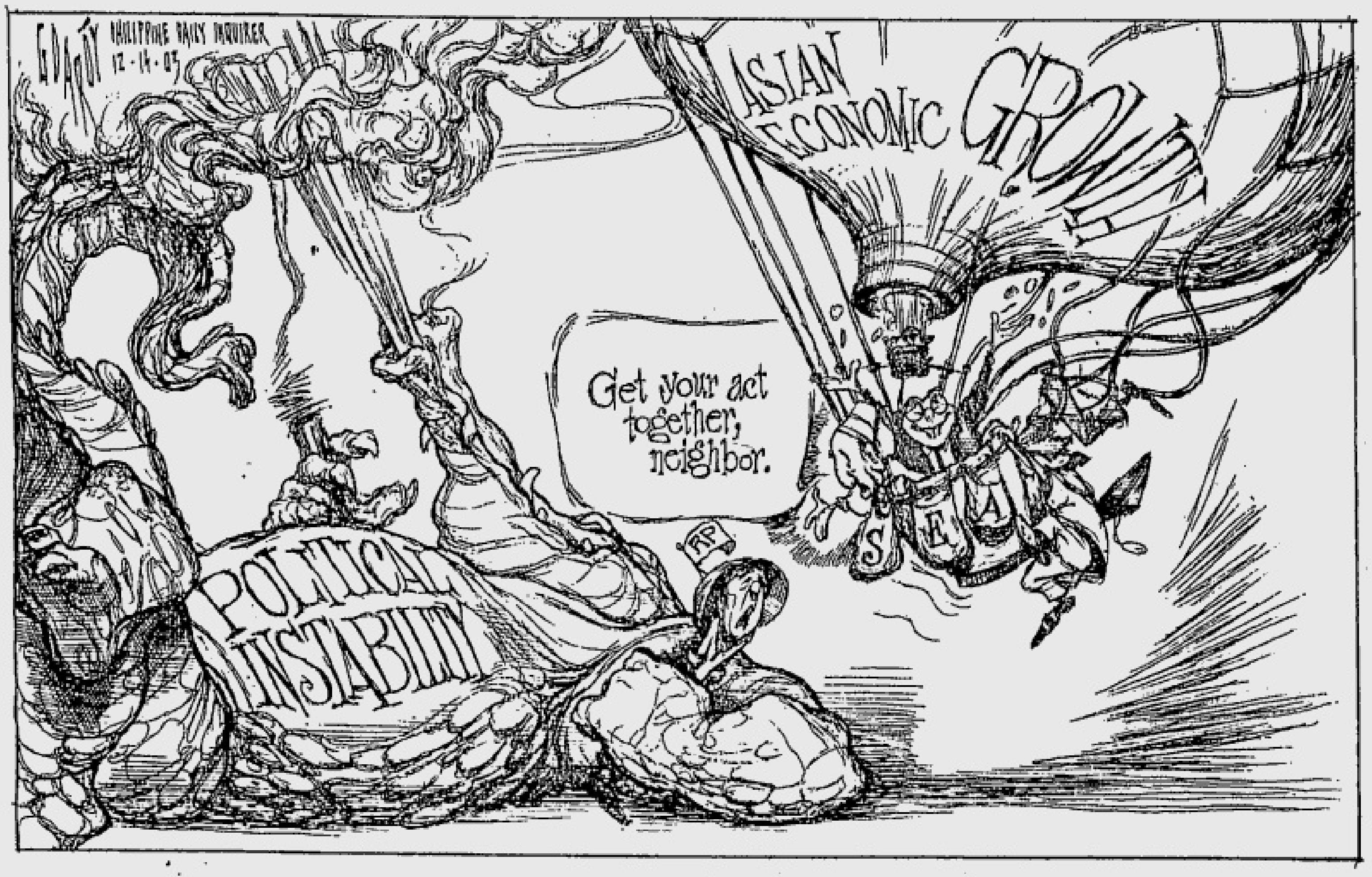
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# Blaming the victim

**EDITORIAL**

AS serialized in Today newspaper, Robert Aventajado's "140 Days of Terror" is truly terrifying. Not because it paints a harrowing portrait of the Abu Sayyaf hostage experience, but because a grotesque man lies at the center of it: Aventajado himself. The reader's main impression is of an inescapably small being, full of vanity about his place in the scheme of things, empty of the faintest sympathy for the victims he professes to serve.

There is plenty of professing in "140 Days,"—in the sense that St. Augustine's Confessions is a profession of his (faith) experience. But where the saint's autobiography is informed by his own deep sense of sin, Aventajado's is marked by a sense that the world, and everyone in it, has failed him—including his friend, President Joseph Estrada.

In his own book, Aventajado, the former presidential adviser who became the official government negotiator in the Sipadan hostage crisis, writes his version of events, of the international trauma which started when Abu Sayyaf bandits raided the Malaysian diving resort of Sipadan on April 23, 2000. But his words end up as transparent score-settling. There may be truth to what he has written, but he is a punitive storyteller, and therefore an unreliable witness.

Two vivid anecdotes—stories he had himself decided to highlight—reveal the inner man.

After the Malaysian ambassador made the dangerous error of meeting Abu Sayyaf leaders in their territory, Aventajado chewed him out (but, naturally, in "a firm and measured tone"). The ambassador explained that he had conducted no negotiations, and that he had secured the prior permission of both the foreign secretary and the executive secretary. Aventajado writes: "I was tempted to tell him where he could shove that permission, but I felt there was nothing more to be gained from further talk with the fellow. I had given him a piece of my mind. I wasn't interested in his opinions and so ended the conversation."

Years after the last foreign hostages were released, Aventajado continues to be regarded as a failed, even compromised, negotiator. (Some hostages have accused him and Estrada, on CNN, of taking a cut of the million-dollar ransom. Both have denied the accusations.) It is easy to understand why he continues to be perceived as having done badly at the thankless job assigned to him.

It is not simply that he was no diplomat. It is mainly because he was the wrong man for the job. As passage after passage reveals, Aventajado seems incapable of sympathy, of being a bridge between cultures, of leaving his comfort zone long enough to stand in other people's shoes. "Nothing more to be gained." "Given him a piece of my mind." "Wasn't interested in his opinions." It doesn't seem to occur to the presidential adviser that the ambassador he was putting in his place had nine Malaysian hostages to worry about, or that he may have first-hand information from the field that the Philippine government could use. All Aventajado wanted to do was to tell the envoy what he had told officials of his own government: "I'm in charge here, you hear?"

The second incident is even more revealing. Stunned by the apparent ingratitude of the first freed European hostage, the German Renate Wallert, who bluntly told him he had not done enough, Aventajado vents his ire on the woman who had just spent 85 days in the Sulu jungle. After defending his actions, which had led to the release, after almost three months, of a grand total of one hostage, he then wondered. "Had her ordeal at the hands of her captors rendered her a bit unbalanced? I thought."

An uncharitable thought, from an uncharitable man. In his attempt to vindicate himself, Aventajado even commits the unpardonable sin. "The Sulu Sea had always been a dangerous area ... Even ships vanished in the Sulu Sea as though it was *(sic)* the Bermuda Triangle. And they, the Europeans, had to pick a spot right smack in the middle of it to spend their vacation in."

In the very small world the fortunately former official inhabits, the victims are to blame. Like everyone else—except, of course, for one firm and measured exception.

# 'Ambition should be made of sterner stuff'

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

IT is the height of presumptuousness for Fernando Poe Jr. to aspire for the presidency of the Philippines despite his undeniable limitations for that high office. It is the height of foolishness for him to think that he is qualified to be president of the Philippines simply because he is Da King of Philippine movies.

Relying on the persuasions of Sen. Vicente Sotto III, a fellow actor with also meager qualifications for public office, Poe allowed himself to be inveigled into announcing his candidacy for head of the government and chief of state in this country. To justify his extravagant claim, he simply said, "I am sincere, dedicated, and I love my country."

Millions of Filipinos can claim those common attributes but they don't have the temerity to aspire to be president of the Philippines. That position requires more than these laudable traits, which do not necessarily guarantee another indispensable requirement for the highest office in the land. That qualification is competence.

Rejecting criticisms of Poe's scant education, his followers say what is more important than mere academic accomplishments is the determination to solve the problems of the country. FPJ, they insist, has that determination. The trouble is, does he have the intelligence to appreciate what these problems are? Reading the tabloids may tell him about these problems but not how to solve them.

Sotto and his ilk say that Poe can draft expert advisers who can train him—presto!—in the art of government. These will include Sotto himself. The former television bozo will probably be the executive secretary or even, Heaven forbid, secretary of foreign affairs. As such, he will also choose for his president the "brain trust" that will make the serious decisions on important affairs of state that only Poe should decide.

The only commendable appointment of President Poe that I can envision is of Armida Siguion-Reyna as head again of the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board. Armida is a dedicated patron of the arts and a fierce champion against censorship. But other appointments he will make from the tinsel world fill me with apprehension.

Will Robert Jaworski, the former basketball roughneck, be the secretary of education, culture and sports in the Poe Cabinet? Gregorio Honasan the new head of the Philippine National Police? Mother Lily as finance secretary and Korina Sanchez as governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas? How about Rudy Fernandez as secretary of the interior, Ruffa Mae Quinto as head of social welfare and development and Annabelle Rama as consul-general in Istanbul? And then, of course, Ramon Revilla Jr. must be the Senate president and Aiko Melendez the Speaker of the House.

Reagan was admittedly no great shakes as an intellectual but he served his political apprenticeship as governor of California and before that as president of the Screen Actors Guild in Hollywood. He was a college graduate too. Twice elected as president of the United States, he chose a group of acknowledged experts who enabled him to greatly improve the country's economy and the lot of the common citizen.

President Manuel L. Quezon was a handsome *mestizo* and danced the tango expertly, but it was not for these distinctions that he was beloved by the nation during his time. He was an intelligent politician who bested his rivals, including his former chief, the powerful Sergio Osmeña Sr., and challenged the autocratic Governor General Leonard Wood during the American regime. Quezon was a dynamic leader, a fiery orator, a quick-witted debater, and, yes, also a ladies' man. His charisma was more substantial than a mere actor's appeal.

Public office should not be equated with the box office, which is what many mindless voters are doing. It is time we put a stop to their inane predominance in Philippine elections. Our responsible leaders should check this deadly affliction unless they want our republic degraded into a comic government of politically inept entertainers. That would be a fate unworthy of our heroes—the soldiers and statesmen of the past—who did not fight for our freedom to be commanded by pretenders.

This is not a tract against entertainers in general. They are a respectable part of our society and deserve support for the role they are playing in providing us with occasional respite from what might otherwise be a humdrum if not worrisome life. But each of us must play his part in the calling he has chosen, and the entertainer's task, in the career of his choice, is to entertain.

All the presidential candidates next year will be courting the electorate, especially the regimented religious groups offering their less than spiritual blessings for valuable consideration like promised appointments of their converts or cold hard cash. Among the supplicants will be Fernando Poe Jr., the anointed saint of the *bakya* crowd and the *bida* of the movie world where frippery is everything. Unless I mistake the signs (or omens?), His Mimicry da King will be the Chosen One.

# What should we do?

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M.
Orbos, SVD*

AS the Christmas season approaches, let us learn our lesson from pigs and misers… they are of no use, until they die.

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Lk. 3, 10-18), John was asked the question "What should we do?" His answer was simple: Share. Times are hard, but, precisely because times are hard, all the more we should open our hands to the poor and the needy around us. If only we shared, there will be enough for everyone. Have you set aside something to be given away this Christmas? As you enjoy your cozy homes, your parties and reunions, please don't forget the poor people around you. Give, share. Till it hurts.**

* * *

What should we do to the tax collectors who asked him, "What should we do?" John told them to stop collecting more than what is prescribed. Hello BIR. Hello Bureau of Customs. Hello government officials. Are you listening? Do not deprive our people of what is rightfully theirs. In plain and simple terms, do not cheat. Do not become rich at the expense of our suffering people.

* * *

**The soldiers also asked John, "What should we do?" His answer was: Do not practice extortion, do not accuse falsely, and be satisfied with your wages. Hello PNP! Hello AFP! Are you listening? You have been given the arms and the power so that you can protect and defend, and not grab and intimidate. The bottom line is that you do your job well. And that no one is hurt or cheated as you rise to higher positions. Did you get your star because you pulled strings, pulled people, or pulled the trigger?**

* * *

John himself, when asked whether he was the Messiah, declared that he was not the one. He was clear about his role and his mission. He had no ambition. John, where are you? Please remind all those lining up now for the 2004 elections to concentrate on mission rather than on personal ambition, and to have a heart for the nation rather than their post-election plans and imaginations. Everybody is talking about who will be at the BANQUET PRESIDENTIAL TABLE. Different groups have different candidates. They already have their set menus, their table arrangements, and even their own waiter. In the meantime, nobody is minding the kitchen and the people are getting hungry.

* * *

**Christmas is in the air. There is a build-up of activities and expectations, (and traffic, too) and we all get busy and experience the "RUSH." Through all these, I am grateful that our Superior Delegatus, Fr. Dante Venus, SVD, had a BELEN made right at the corridor of the Mission House where I experience quiet and prayerful Christmas moments whenever I stop by. It is as if Jesus, Mary and Joseph are telling me: "Jerry, why the rush? Why are you so busy? Who, what is the reason for all that you are doing?" Yes, let us all find time to stop in whatever busy "corridor" we are in, and realize again, that indeed, Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. That's what we all should do.**

* * *

Actually, we know what we should do. The problem is that we do not do what we should do. If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Do not postpone your conversion. Do not postpone your loving.

* * *

**This week, we begin our Aguinaldo Dawn Masses once again. This sacrifice of getting up early and being alert to the Lord is a beautiful preparation for Jesus' birthday. Remember, Christmas has to happen in the heart. May we all experience a peaceful, grace-filled Christmas. May we all listen to the Lord with our hearts. Indeed, it is only with the heart that one can see rightly.**

* * *

The problem with some people is that, they get busy at Christmas with wrapping and partying, and they forget cleaning (hearts) and mending (relationships). Today is Gaudete Sunday. Prepare for His coming with joy! This reminds me of a story of an old priest who came before St. Peter, so gloomy and thin because he lived such an ascetic life. What did St. Peter tell him? "My child, actually there was a typographical error somewhere. 'Celibate' should have been spelled 'Celebrate,' and, 'Reduce' should have been spelled 'Rejoice'!"

Let us rejoice in spite of everything and continue to see God's loving smile and feel His embrace whoever we are, whatever we are going through!

* * *

**Couples who need help and want to make their marriage work, you are invited for a Retrouvaille Weekend (Dec. 12-14, 2003) at the Saidi Formation House in Antipolo City. For particulars and registration, you may contact either Fr. Soc Mesiona at 831-99-38; Tony and Cops at 435-34-14; Merit and Bernie at 0917-7950682; or Willie and Aleth at 800-5902/801-2371.**

* * *

A Moment with the Lord

*Lord, remind me again what I should be, and give me the strength to do what I should do. Amen.*

# Philippine foreign policy is based on fear

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

IT was the annual Christmas party of the Philippine Ambassadors' Association headed by my UP High colleague, Macario Laurel, former ambassador to Brazil and the Philippine Ambassadors' Ladies' Association (Pala), led by Tita Mendoza who spent much of her diplomatic life in Nairobi, Kenya with husband Romy.

The guest of honor at the luncheon was Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who as Speaker several years back, took House members by surprise, by his lightning action in transmitting to the Senate the impeachment raps against Erap when everyone thought he was just going through the motions of opening the day's session. Of course, the rest is history and Villar's performance catapulted him to the ranks of the Senate where he eventually replaced Blas Ople as Foreign Relations chair.

Like others in the audience, I was wondering what expertise or experience in foreign affairs did Villar possess to qualify him for the Senate Foreign Relations chair. I had always known him as a construction magnate who made his fortune in low-cost housing development programs resulting in his becoming one of the country's billionaires. I figured the Foreign Relations chair was part of the horse trading in the distribution of committee chairmanships in the Senate. I was also reminded of what Ka Blas, a longtime labor leader both in and out of government, once wrote when he was still in the Senate. He said: "Foreign policy has about it an air of mystification that it does not deserve. This is not a special province of arcane knowledge that only a few experts are able to grasp. Our policy in international affairs should grow out of our own fundamental concerns and the vital interests of the Filipino people and yet, not a few observers have remarked on the incorrigibly parochial cast of Philippine politics."

We were just beginning to enjoy our coffee and perhaps, close our eyes every now and then ('twas the hour of great peril for those advanced in age), when after a while we began to get the drift of his remarks.

Villar was telling his audience that Philippine foreign policy was a product based mainly on fear; fear of offending the United States, fear of offending China and Japan, fear of disturbing Asean solidarity. Our main concern appeared to be how to avoid offending others. That's when people began to sit up and listen.

He related his experience with a planned visit to Taiwan. He had long put off this visit for one reason or another, and one day he decided to finally accept the invitation from his hosts. He mentioned this to Senate President Franklin Drilon who reacted by cautioning him about the repercussions such a visit might have on our relations with China. Villar replied that as a Filipino citizen no one could dictate to him where he should or should not go.

He expressed concern over our continued presence in Iraq, considering the dangers posed by the increasingly active resistance movement in that country. For an administration stalwart, this stance is at odds with the official administration policy of cooperation with the US-led coalition. Moreover, the Philippines is one of 50 countries since authorized by the Pentagon to bid for reconstruction projects in Iraq.

Perhaps, Villar was simply reminding Ka Blas of his own words regarding our position in international affairs. This position should be based on a regard for the interests of the people, rather than on the principle of accommodation.

* * *

Last week, I checked out the status of Philippine foreign service establishments around the world. As of this month, we had a total of 82 posts, including 62 embassies and 20 consulates-general. As expected, we have the most number of embassies in the Asia-Pacific region, followed by those in Europe and in the Middle East. In terms of ambassadorial appointments, out of 62, 23 are non-career officials. Among the more prominent political appointees are Francisco Alba (Vatican), Maj. Gen. Voltaire Gazmin [Ret.] (Cambodia), Edgardo Espiritu (United Kingdom) and Joseph Bernardo (Spain). Their terms are coterminous with that of the appointing power. Non-career officials make up the bulk of our representatives in the Americas. Out of nine embassies, six are headed by political appointees: Francisco Benedicto (Canada), Consuelo Puyat Reyes (Chile), Regina Irene Sarmiento (Cuba), Justo Orros (Mexico), Lauro Baja Jr. (New York-UN Mission), and Albert del Rosario (United States).

In terms of consuls-general we have a total of 20, all of them career officials.

* * *

Although this is easier said than done, perhaps we should review the existing utilization of so many political appointees in the foreign service. While some posts may require special skills and qualifications calling for such appointments, we can best develop a corps of dependable diplomatic representatives by allowing the professionals greater exposure to carry out the work for which they have been trained and for which they possess the necessary experience. It is also important that they be skilled not just in diplomatic practice but also in market development and trade negotiations.

# Two weddings, one family

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

MARRIAGES and weddings have been very much on the minds of my family this past week.

Last Monday, my niece Fani Apigo and her fiancé Jonathan Cowles, held their "betrothal ceremony" in the family home in Cubao.

Both Fani, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and Jonathan, an architect, are based in Arizona. They had planned their wedding for next May in Phoenix, but Fani wanted not just to introduce Jonathan to her mother, my sister Neneng, but also to let Neneng take part, in some way, in the ceremony.

Preparations got under way with the arrival of Dada, Neneng's youngest daughter, a week earlier. With my sister Charo and sister-in-law Soc, they scoured Farmer's Market for a supplier of *sampaguita*, which Fani wanted to use as a signature "scent" for the rites.

On the evening of Dec. 8, which is also my late mother's birthday, they managed to convert the grounds of the Cubao house into a tropical paradise, with strands of *sampaguita* hanging from the trees of the garden, candles flickering from corners and ledges, and an altar beneath a canopy of flickering tivoli lights.

By the time Fani came down the stairs, a crown of *sampaguita* on her hair and carrying a bouquet of red roses and more *sampaguita* buds, with Neneng by her side, the atmosphere was thick with sentiment.

More than pulling off the hastily-prepared occasion, though, what gave all of us cheer was meeting Jonathan and knowing that Fani had finally met the man with whom she would share her life. Beautiful and accomplished, strong-willed and opinionated, Fani, we had feared, would never find the man who could meet her exacting standards. But in Jonathan we found a man of good humor and easygoing ways, tolerating even our loud clan gatherings and inquisitions with charm and ease. Best of all, he seems genuinely happy to be part of the family, and we have welcomed him with open hearts.

* * *

**AND then it was our turn.**

**My husband Pie and I celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary the next day, Dec. 9. It had taken more than a year of planning, list-making, shopping and micro-managing a thousand-and-one details and I could hardly believe the day was dawning.**

**When I first broached the idea of a celebration to which all our families and friends would be invited, Pie protested that he didn't want to kick up a fuss. But I told him that if he wanted to, he could go fishing with his pals and I would host the Mass and reception all by myself.**

**When my parents celebrated their own Silver Wedding Anniversary, I remember wondering how two people could stand being with each other for so long. Wouldn't it be boring? Wouldn't they start getting on each other's nerves?**

**But the years from 1978 to 2003 just sped by. And through two children, two houses, two busy and fulfilling careers and the ups and downs of life from illnesses to age—Pie and I not only managed to remain married to each other, we continued to enjoy each other's company.**

**If that wasn't reason enough to celebrate, we also wanted to thank everyone who had helped us along the way. A marriage and a family, after all, are sustained not just by the couple or their children, but by everyone else around them, a village of caring and nurturing and cheering and commiserating. And for all of them we wanted to throw a party!**

* * *

THERE are so many people to thank for helping make the evening a success.

Bishop Soc Villegas immediately called up Villa San Miguel to make a reservation when I brought up the matter last January. While other people, including my husband, were just laughing off my overly premature preparations, Bishop Soc even suggested I write Cardinal Sin and request that he officiate at our renewal of vows.

Unfortunately, the Cardinal is ailing, but he gave us and our children time last Tuesday to come up to his office and receive his blessings.

Officiating at the rites was my brother, Fr. Boboy Jimenez, SVD, with concelebrants Fr. Prol, Fr. Garcia and Fr. Tejon from the Dominican community in San Juan, family friends from way, way back. Peachy Yamsuan was our commentator and liturgical consultant, curbing my most extravagant impulses and making sure our liturgy was correct.

Millie Reyes of The Plaza and her assistant, Myrna Virtudes, smoothed things over. The minute we decided to hold the reception at the poolside of the Wack-wack Golf and Country Club, their cool professionalism helped calm our nerves.

Our coordinator, Tintin Abellar, took up her duties not just with conscientiousness but also with a passion to make the night truly memorable. That she carried out her work despite a family tragedy the day before made her professionalism all that more admirable.

I would also like to acknowledge the work done by Genna, Hazel, Leah, Shirley and Jorge who all pitched in to make sure things went smoothly. As well as my daughter Miya's friends: Nina, MM and Soleil.

My niece Coreen and friend Sandra Castro Puno "volunteered" to be the emcees for the night, and what excellent emcees they were!

But what would the night be without music? After we heard Rex Grupo and his jazz band perform at Lush Life, we decided they had to play at our reception. The Vox Pacis choir which sings every Wednesday at the Edsa Shrine truly made our Mass memorable, and they dazzled our guests with their surprise a cappella numbers later.

Finally, a great big thanks to the New Voice Company for performing one of Pie's favorite love songs: Gershwin's "Someone to Watch Over Me." And our gratitude, too to Mart and Lala Miranda of Videosonic for the sound and lights!

As this listing suggests, it takes a great big village not just to sustain a marriage but to celebrate it as well!

# In a world of images

**PUBLIC LIVES**

*Randy David*

IT must have been one of the many spokespersons of the President. Someone from Malacañang recently made a point of saying that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is President in "the real world." The remark was clearly meant to draw a sharp contrast between GMA, a "real" President, and FPJ, an aspirant from the imaginary world of the movies. Any serious student of philosophy however might tell us that the statement, witty as it may be, makes sense only if there is a way of knowing the "real world" except through our images of it. There is none.

Modern science may often seem as if it offers us a more accurate picture of the world "as it really is." But this picture is just one more image taken from another angle, using some instruments of measurement. In the latest Social Weather Stations survey, for instance, the President received a minus 3 satisfaction rating. That rating depicts her as a non-performing President. Harsh as it is, this is the image that the Filipino public has of her at this time, as seen through the lenses of a public opinion poll.

We get to know reality only through appearances, whether we use our everyday commonsense or the sophisticated methods of science. There is no way, as Nietzsche puts it, of "reaching beyond the image or behind it." We may oppose what purports to be a more precise image to one derived from commonsense by, for example, drawing a more comprehensive picture of how things came to be. But even this shows only another image, not reality "as it really is."

All this is to say that we are well advised not to denigrate images of character derived from the movies or television. They are as "real" as the projections that public officials make of their achievements. Perhaps the only difference, if any, is that in the case of the movies, viewers are prompted to suspend belief, whereas in politics there is no such warning. When politicians present their qualifications and achievements on television, they expect us to suspend disbelief.

The consciousness of the poor is as true as their condition. There is nothing false about it. They see the world necessarily from the prism of their own beliefs and values. The habits of thought that constitute the core of their consciousness are products of their specific formation as a human community. Their consciousness may be limited from the standpoint of certain goals, but it is not inferior.

There was a time when I, like many from the Left, uncritically accepted terms like "false consciousness" and "objective conditions." When people subjected to exploitation and oppression failed to respond to their situation in a revolutionary way, we said it was because they suffered from "false consciousness." We assumed that what they needed was a correct political education to enable them to see the "objective conditions" of their exploitation and oppression. The patronizing arrogance of this language became evident to me when I encountered the writings of Paulo Freire, the Brazilian educator. In his work among the poor of Latin America and Africa, Freire insisted that the people must be allowed to "create their own words."

But the other side of this process is equally important. Those of us who claim to see better and are inclined to teach must also learn the ability to look inward and review our own perspectives. For these may often be colored by unexamined fears and prejudices that prevent us from assigning any value to others' opinions even before we have understood where they are coming from.

We typically assume, for example, that the voting behavior of the poor is not rational when they choose candidates who do not possess the experience and qualifications that we think are essential to the position they seek. We forget that rationality is relative. People have different concepts of the ideal leader. These are not unchanging notions; they depend very much on people's perceptions of the situation in which they find themselves at any given moment.

In late 1985, after Marcos suddenly announced the holding of a snap election in February the following year, the public searched around for a presidential candidate who could personify the popular movement that opposed Marcos. Winning was secondary; everyone expected Marcos to cheat. Experience and readiness to discharge the duties of the presidency were also secondary. The important thing was to offer the nation the complete antithesis of Marcos. That was Cory Aquino, a woman whose husband had been murdered by the regime, a housewife with no previous experience in politics who could tell Marcos—the consummate politician—that she also did not have any experience in corruption.

Yet we were not wanting in leaders who could lead the country out of the nightmare of martial law. The venerable Lorenzo Tañada, who led countless demonstrations against the dictatorship, was still alive. So was the brilliant Jose W. Diokno. Undeterred by his incarceration in Marcos jails, he articulated the clearest vision of a nation for our children. So was Jovito R. Salonga, the scholar-statesman who led the Senate that closed the American bases in the Philippines and, to this day, continues to fight for a just society. They all stepped aside to make way for Cory Aquino.

Analysts may say that the public's choice of a leader may not always be the right one for the nation. That is a judgment that still proceeds from the specific perspective of a given set of goals and values. In a world of images, we can only look at results from different perspectives. We have no recourse to a neutral or eternal perspective lying outside human affairs.

* * *

*Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph*

# US hands Chen big dilemma

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

*William Foreman*

TAIPEI, Taiwan—The Taiwanese president's plan seemed clever at first: Excite voters, embarrass rival China and make history by holding Taiwan's first islandwide referendum—a vote about whether the massive Chinese military should stop pointing hundreds of missiles at the tiny island.

The program began unraveling quickly when one of Taiwan's biggest supporters, US President George W. Bush, expressed serious concerns on Tuesday. Now, there's talk that the unpredictable Taiwanese leader pushed too hard, and the referendum could be in jeopardy.

The events highlight a political reality for Taiwan: China can be boldly challenged, but America shouldn't be messed with. As the most important powerbroker in the Taiwan Strait, Washington's words count the most.

Bush's warning marked the sharpest US rebuke of President Chen Shui-bian since the former Taipei mayor was elected nearly four years ago. The most stinging thing about it was that Bush dressed down Chen while China's new premier, Wen Jiabao, sat by his side in the White House.

Although Bush didn't specifically oppose the referendum planned for March 20—the same day Chen seeks reelection—the president warned that he opposes "any unilateral decision by either China or Taiwan to change the status quo."

Taiwan got the message. Any referendum threatens to shake the delicate balance across the 160-kilometer-wide Taiwan Strait.

Beijing believes self-ruled Taiwan is part of China, and it fears the Taiwanese might vote to reject this sacred belief and chose a permanent split. So for China, even referendums on mundane issues pose a threat of leading to an independence vote—which Beijing has threatened to use force to stop.

A war could quickly involve the United States, which has defended Taiwan before.

Until now, Taiwanese leaders didn't dare test the referendum taboo, but Chen's Democratic Progressive Party has long held that the Taiwanese have the right to vote on their future. A law legalizing referendums was passed last month.

China complained and issued some bellicose threats. But Chen didn't care—and may have even welcomed the bluster: His poll numbers usually go up when China threatens the spunky Taiwanese.

But Chen's referendum dream was also too much for America, said David M. Lampton, professor of China studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Chen has inserted himself in US politics at a bad time, with Bush burdened with Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea, he said. The Taiwanese president has also been showing little regard for US interests, he added.

"I think you've just seen a progressive overplaying of his hand by Chen, and finally... President Bush in his own way said, 'I've had enough,'" Lampton said.

"What he (Bush) has done is to make it clear that Chen Shui-bian did not have a blank check to be filled out in American blood."

The Taiwanese president remained defiant Wednesday, reiterating that the referendum wouldn't challenge the status quo with China. He also argued that it was ironic that China was pointing missiles at Taiwan, yet the Taiwanese were being accused of being provocative.

Chen described the planned referendum as a normal democratic right. "The people of Taiwan have the right to say, loudly 'We are against the missiles, we want democracy, we are against war, we want peace,'" Chen said.

Canceling the referendum could be extremely hard for Chen, who is locked in an intense election battle. Scuttling the vote would expose him to scathing criticism from the opposition, which is trying to brand him as a reckless leader who doesn't respect the China threat and doesn't appreciate his friends, namely America.

Philip Yang, a political scientist at the elite National Taiwan University, said Bush's strong words put Chen in a dangerous position. The vote's original purpose—consolidating core supporters and attracting moderates—might backfire, he said. Many of these voters will be scared away from Chen if he can't keep Washington happy, Yang said.

"Then he might change his mind and start shifting to another issue," Yang said.

Dan Lynch, a professor of international relations at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, said Chen might have been able to avoid the sense of crisis if he had said sooner that the referendum would focus on China's military threat.

But Lynch added, "Yet probably they wanted a sense of crisis to focus the world's attention on Taiwan, which they feel they have to do from time to time given the tendency of the world to fawn on China." *AP*

## THEY SAID

### De-odorant

"She needs Noli de Castro to deodorize her opportunistic politics."

*—Sanlakas Party-List Rep. JV Bautista on plans of getting the senator to be the running mate of President Macapagal-Arroyo*

### Active tongue

"I am retiring but I am not keeping quiet. You cannot stop me from speaking."

*—Jaime Cardinal Sin*

### Real and reel life?

"We do not have make-believe situations like those in his action movies where he has directors and writers to coach him. Our country has real-life problems and it's not enough that the president is good-hearted."

*—Fr. Robert Reyes said after Fernando Poe Jr. declared his intention to seek the presidency*

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# TALK of the TOWN

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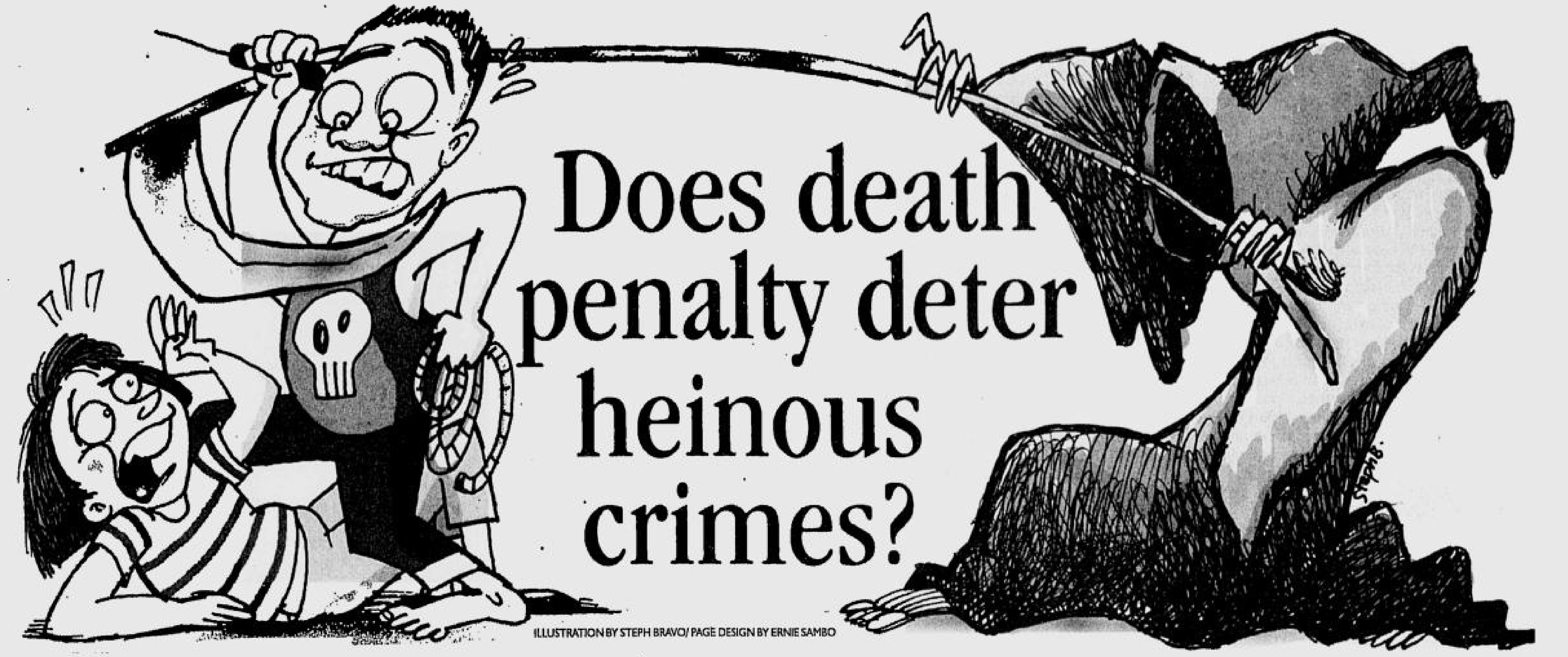
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.



# Does death penalty deter heinous crimes?

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/ PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

AMID the clamor of the Chinese-Filipino community for the restoration of the death penalty, President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Nov. 24, that capital punishment would not solve the rash of kidnappings.

"We have had executions in the past and these have provided a steam valve to vent the public's ire against hardened criminals. But these executions did not stop heinous crime," she said in a statement.

The President said the more effective way of deterring heinous crimes was for the entire criminal justice system—the police, prosecution, courts and correctional structure—to team up with the community.

Eleven days later the President made a turnaround. She said she was lifting the four-year-old moratorium on the death penalty because she "must yield to the higher public interest when dictated by extraordinary circumstances."

She said she would no longer stand in the way of the executions scheduled by the courts for January. Her officials later said that only convicted kidnappers and drug traffickers would be subjected to lethal injection.

The Chinese-Filipino community hailed her decision, but other groups, including the Catholic Church and El Shaddai, did not.

Studies have shown that capital punishment does not deter the commission of heinous crimes. They also show that not all death convicts, mostly from the lower classes, are criminals.

Because she lifted the moratorium a few months before the May elections, many believe that her move was meant to appease the economically powerful Chinese-Filipino community and to get their support for her presidential campaign.

## Give penalty a chance to work

I fully agree with the implementation of the death penalty because it was never given the chance to be fully implemented. Hence, there is no basis to say that it isn't effective. Now is the time to test how it can be effective. It is only fitting that we give it a chance to prove its worth. And I do believe that the government is sincere this time. *Arturo Sebastian, regional governor, Northern Mindanao, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cagayan de Oro*

I am against the re-imposition of the death penalty. First, it is not a deterrent to crime. In fact, in the whole of Europe where not a single country is imposing death penalty, the crime rate is decreasing, unlike in the United States which imposes death penalty. Second, given the inefficiency of our police and antiquated methods of investigation, there is a strong possibility of convicting innocent people and imposing on them the capital punishment. Third, death penalty is irreversible. Once the convict is executed, even if it is ultimately found that there had been a wrong conviction, you cannot return his life. Lastly, as a Roman Catholic, I agree with the Pope and the bishops that death is a barbaric form of punishment. Capital punishment by the State is one form of legalized murder. *Democrito C. Barcenas, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Cebu City chapter*

## It's against human rights

The European Union is unified in its position against the imposition of the death penalty. It is nonsense. It is against human rights, against logic. We are really very upset over this issue of death penalty. We expressed in the last few days to many public opinion leaders our position on it. We sincerely hope that this decision be reconsidered. *Umberto Colesanti, Italian Ambassador, European Union*

It's about time that the death penalty be revived to punish criminals, especially the kidnappers and the so-called drug lords. The President's decision means that, finally, she has found the political will. And I salute her. Others might interpret her decision, especially her political opponent, that she is just appeasing the Chinese-Filipino community. So be it.

The rising level of criminality must be curbed. Our economy will continue to suffer if investors stop coming for fear of being kidnapped. The imposition of the death penalty will help deter kidnapping for ransom and the illegal drug trade.

Human as they are, criminals will think twice before committing evil deeds. Nobody, including the criminals, would like to see their lives being snuffed out. Lastly, I hope that we, as a people, unite behind the decision of the President. I believe that she is only after the good of our country. *Phines F. Patalinghug, law student, Tacloban City, Leyte*

## The President succumbed to pressure

One cannot be categorical about that. For those who are firm in their religious beliefs, the lifting of the moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty runs counter to the pro-life teachings of the Church. Only those who don't see it from the religious perspective may agree with the death penalty, but only when the justice system, particularly the police, is credible.

Since the justice system is not yet credible, it's not the time for the imposition of the death penalty.

I believe that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. Those who carry out suicide bombings face death willingly. Those who may be forced to feed their hungry families will similarly be willing to risk death out of desperation. The brains of big syndicates are not the ones who will be arrested and therefore do not care at all. The small fry, who will be meted out the death penalty, can easily be replaced.

There is no doubt that President Macapagal-Arroyo was pressured into lifting the moratorium by the Chinese-Filipino community. This is a community that virtually controls the country's economy and it is affected by the rash of kidnappings. It is difficult to antagonize the community because it can do worse than Edsa-like uprising. Considering that the elections are very near, it would be very difficult to court its displeasure. *Dr. Rolando Emmanuel Leyson, optometrist and town councilor, Bohol*

Kidnapping is nothing new in Mindanao. Kidnappers don't discriminate whether the victim is a child or adult, man or woman, so long as there is the promise of ransom, or of proceeds from the sale of kidnapped victims as slaves.

Many such cases including rape against men and women go unreported. How the victims cope when they are released or how they fare if they're not released need to be told, one day.

We ought to address the real problems: too much politicking among our leaders and non-implementation of our laws.

We need leaders who are firm in implementing the laws. The greatest deterrent to crime is the certainty of arrest and the meting out of justice without fear or favor. Key to this is putting law enforcement in the hands of qualified and upright men and women who are well-trained and well-paid.

We ought to give the government time to solve crime. Miracles don't happen overnight as what our illiterates wish for in preferring to vote for illusion rather than for reality. Let us be optimistic, patient and supportive of the government. *Christine F. Godinez-Ortega, writer and literature professor, Iligan City*

## We're barking up the wrong tree

The President's lifting of the moratorium on death penalty could be politically motivated, i.e., to pacify the Chinese-Filipino community. Now she has to contend with the pro-life sector. I am not sure if this can be resolved in terms of numbers. The more basic question is—should we allow the death penalty to be implemented in our land? Will it serve as a deterrent to heinous crimes? Will killing one criminal make others think twice or cower in fear? Maybe not. We may have to look at the root causes—poverty, power, and insatiable greed. What I am trying to say is the death penalty may not be the approach to solving crimes—we may be barking up the wrong tree. *Roberto D. Montebon, president/administrator, Silliman Medical Center, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental*

Punishment for a crime is intended to deter criminality. No matter what the penalty is, the legislative intent must serve the purpose more effectively than a less severe punishment would. While a severe punishment may deter criminality, there is no solid evidence that death as a penalty has served as an effective deterrent against the commission of serious offenses.

The rise in criminality is not due to the lack of severe punishment. It is the lack of political will to criminally charge and impose punishments on the moneyed and powerful. A good number of those who end up being charged in court are those who cannot buy their freedom from those tasked with enforcing the law.

Lifting the moratorium on death penalty will not stop the commission of serious offenses. If freedom from being charged can be bought at a price from those who implement the law, no amount of penalty can deter criminal activity. There must be political will and resolve to honestly and effectively implement the laws against whomsoever and no matter what. Only then can punishment deter criminality. *Vincent Paul Montejo, Ateneo de Davao University Law School and member of the Free Legal Assistance Group*

Lifting the moratorium on death penalty will not solve criminality in the country. I am annoyed by the sudden turnaround of President Macapagal-Arroyo on this issue.

The worsening criminality shows that the present leadership should have more political will in making our laws work. We have enough laws to ensure that justice prevail in this country. The only problem is that law enforcement agencies are corrupt and are not empowered enough to work.

Our justice department must ensure that "those who have less in life must have more in law." The police organization must be rid of corrupt officers. The people should also be empowered by involving them in efforts aimed at solving crime in their community.

GMA was definitely pressured by the Chinese-Filipino community into lifting the moratorium. Of course, she would also like the community to support her presidential bid in May. *Msgr. Jerry Bitoon, rector, St. Peter College Seminary, San Pablo City*

## The President did the right thing

GMA did the right thing when she lifted the moratorium on death penalty. But it should not be focused on convicted kidnappers alone. What about other convicted criminals like rapists, terrorists, drug lords and those who killed people?

These criminals should be penalized according to what the law dictates to let them know that their acts have no place in our society. Criminals are no longer afraid of committing grave offenses because no hard penalties are being imposed.

I don't think GMA lifted the moratorium just to get the votes of the Chinese-Filipino community. If it is indeed politically motivated, I don't see anything wrong with that. All politicians have their strategy of getting sympathy from voters in order for them to get elected. *Raymund Escalante, public information officer, Department of Labor and Employment V, Legazpi City*

Death penalty does not solve the problem. It has not deterred heinous crimes. Does the lifting of the moratorium tell us that the crime rate has gone up? Why only now? Is this a tacit acknowledgement of the helplessness of the authorities? Have we exhausted all the means? That this move would translate into votes for GMA remains to be seen. It is only in the affirmation of life that life can be born. *Pastor Noel Suministrado, United Church of Christ in the Philippines*

The President's move is meant to court votes from the predominantly pro-death penalty voters of this country. Every sensible Filipino knows that to solve kidnapping or the illegal drugs trade the government must first address poverty. Statistics show that since its imposition a few years back, heinous crimes like rape, robbery and murder have not abated.

In the Zamboanga Peninsula, there are still many sexually abused children housed at different government institutions and drug cases are increasing in almost all provinces.

Drug pushers often go back to the trade after posting bail. Many of them don't like to go back to the trade after serving time. Because they have no regular income to feed the family, they return to drug pushing.

In Zamboanga del Norte there are only three celebrated cases of kidnapping over the last 10 years. Like its neighbor Zamboanga Sibugay, kidnapping is not as rampant compared to Metro Manila, and this is because the two provinces are not as poor compared to the metropolis.

But drug pushing is rampant in Zamboanga del Sur, Ozamiz City and Misamis Occidental. Zamboanga del Norte is best remembered as the home of Wilson Sorronda of the famous Kuratong-Baleleng group. The group boasts that Dipolog City and the province are its place for rest and recreation. It shows that kidnapping is a 'luxurious' business for small employees and the jobless in this country.

The deterrent to crime is the certainty of arrest and the meting out of justice without fear or favor. *Lullie Micabalo, NPA rebel returnee, Dipolog City*

*(Interviews by the PDI Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Bureaus)*

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# Tribes seek bigger role in peace talks

**BONTOC, Mt. Province—With the pending resumption of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), peace advocates here are pushing for representation in both panels of government and NDFP.**

Peace advocates in Cordillera are also calling for the government to implement the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

Wyndel Bolinget, secretary general of Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), said the implementation of CARHRIHL—the first point agenda between the government and the NDFP which was signed in 1998—can ensure the advancement of peace talks and the end of human rights violations among tribal communities, which CPA claimed are "highly militarized."

He made this statement during the celebration of the Human Rights Day on Wednesday attended by peace activists, government employees, church, government and police officials.

The procedures on peace talks between both panels should not miss the issues of the indigenous peoples who are often victims of the skirmishes between the government troops and the communist rebels, said Zenaida Pawid, former member of the National Unification Commission.

"If you look at the military report, you would notice that all the skirmishes are happening in our ancestral domain. They are waging war in our land and spilling it with their blood," Pawid said.

"They do not know the sacredness of the land. And after the war, we are left behind to pick up the pieces. The tribes only want peace in our lands because land has soul," she added.

Pawid said indigenous peoples should be represented in the resumption of peace talks to articulate the issues of tribal communities in different regions.

She said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), both separatist groups, were only given stakes as observers in the negotiation.

Bolinget, however, said peace talks could pursue without any members of the indigenous peoples community as long as both panels recognize the rights of indigenous peoples in the country.

On the part of the NDFP, the panel has consulted Igorot elders in The Netherlands, where NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison was self-exiled, in the drafting of the peace agreements.

"The CARHRIHL has a provision on indigenous peoples' rights. All the government has to do is to implement it and to respect our rights. But whether or not you are an IP (indigenous people), your rights should be respected," said Bolinget.

The talks, however, should consider the peace and human rights situation of the tribes in the Cordillera and Mindanao where militarization has become a problem, said Joan Carling, chair of the CPA. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**ANTITERROR**

DENNIS SABANGAN/EPA

**Members of the 3rd Light Reaction Co. of the Philippine military aim their weapons at imaginary targets during a training on counter-terrorism inside Clark.**

# Drums of toxic chemicals feared to leak, cause contamination

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Environment officials here have raised alarm over the deteriorating condition of the 39 drums containing highly toxic chemicals tucked at the Western Mindanao regional health office building in Barangay Calarian.

During the recent House hearing held here on the confiscated smuggled chemicals consigned to Erap pal Lepeng Wee, environment officials warned of an imminent danger to the health of the residents unless the chemicals were properly disposed of.

They told the House committee on good government, chaired by Davao Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, that the drums holding the chemicals were already showing signs of deterioration and a leak would be likely.

DENR representatives had last inspected the drums on November 6.

"The deterioration could cause danger to lives and the environment," a DENR official told the committee.

The 39 drums contained volatile substances such as methylene chloride and toluene, both components for the manufacture of shabu.

Nineteen of the drums were confiscated aboard the MV Lady Mary Joy 2, which docked in from Sandakan on June 30, while the remaining containers were seized from a warehouse in Barangay Tumaga here on July 1.

Wee had consistently denied owning the shipment.

But the Department of Justice, in a resolution dated April 2, 2003, directed the filing of criminal charges against those involved in the illegal importation of the 39 drums of chemicals, including Wee.

A motion for reconsideration, however, is pending before the DOJ.

"I reiterate that it is politically motivated when the name of the undersigned was dragged into the illegal importation of the chemicals. Aside from the fact that I do not wish to waste the time of the committee since I have no knowledge on the illegal importation, I am committed the whole week to attend to some business matters which cannot be postponed," Wee told Lopez. *Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau.*

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# Cost to gov't of SC tax rule 'unimaginable'

BAGUIO CITY—All firms leasing former American base lands in the country are asking solutions from the Bases Conversion Development Authority, after the BCDA lost a Supreme Court case which had questioned the tax benefits enjoyed by special economic zones.

The INQUIRER learned this on Friday from a BCDA spokesperson who admitted that the ruling would turn off investors of the BCDA economic zones in Camp John Hay here, Poro Point in La Union and the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

The Supreme Court ruled on Oct. 28 that former President Fidel Ramos did not have any authority to prescribe tax incentives and tariff immunities to investors and accredited suppliers of all economic zones governed by the BCDA.

The decision meant that these firms are now in debt for corporate, real estate and import taxes from which they used to be exempted, said lawyer Liza Pagano-Calde, spokesperson for the BCDA and the estate manager of John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC).

Should all firms pull out because of the ruling's implications, the cost to the government "would be unimaginable," Calde said.

Computing from BCDA payment accounts obtained by the INQUIRER, these firms may owe the government in excess of P100 billion from the time they started operations between 1994 and 1996.

On Friday, the developer of Camp John Hay took both BCDA and Malacañang to task for concealing the suit's existence when the government offered the 290-hectare John Hay special economic zone to investors for a development lease in a 1995 public bidding.

Lawyer Gina Alvarez, senior vice president for legal affairs of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo), said the terms of reference for the 1995 public bidding for Camp John Hay did not explain the legal difficulties it was undergoing when it promised investors full tax incentives. CJHDevCo's Dec. 12 letter to the BCDA said the firm would sue to win back some P4 billion it had invested in Camp John Hay, should the government fail to resolve its tax crisis.

Calde said the ruling affects CJHDevCo, the Camp John Hay Manor, the Camp John Hay Golf Club, which are all run by a Fil Estate-led consortium; and the Inbound Pacific Inc., which operates a commercial strip at the Camp John Hay special economic zone.

The same predicament will haunt the Bulk Handlers Inc. at the Poro Point Freeport Zone, a beneficiary of the same proclamation, and some 100 locators at the Clark Special Economic Zone, she said.

Former Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzalez, chair of Mondragon Industries, had inquired from CJHDevCo last week about the ruling.

Mondragon, the former operator of the Mimosa Leisure Estate at the Clark Special Economic Zone, is vulnerable to a retroactive tax collection because of its tax liabilities with Clark Development Corp.

Most of the BCDA-administered firms have started consolidating their legal options, according to the CJHDevCo lawyer.

Alvarez also told Calde that CJHDevCo could discontinue its renegotiated payments for the year. Because of a P1-billion rental debt, BCDA granted the firm a graduated payment scheme. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**RESCUERS** and firefighters remove the body of one of the fatalities in a fire that gutted a nightclub in Baguio City and killed eight people, most of them women working as entertainers in the club.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

# Only 1 of 8 fatalities in Baguio fire identified

BAGUIO CITY—Only one of eight fatalities in a nightclub fire here last Thursday has been identified so far by the Baguio fire department.

Arson investigator Bernardo Bravo said a relative of Marvin Paraiso, a worker of Perutz Bar, came to identify his remains.

"It's the nature of the job that they use fictitious names. Even the workers (in Perutz) cannot identify their operators," Bravo said.

Faulty electrical wiring was being looked at as the cause of the fire that gutted the Tenefrancia building housing the Perutz Bar on Magsaysay Avenue.

The names of the fatalities, who were mostly dancers, were given by their friends. They included Maricel Gajudo, Josie Montelibano, Mila Mondiquillo and Cherry Fajardo.

Bravo, however, said these names were still being verified and only their relatives could positively identify them.

The rest of the victims were identified only as Joy, Nene and Edcel. The victims were all killed by asphyxiation from the fumes of the fire that broke out in one of the rooms of Perutz Bar at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday.

Their bodies were recovered an hour later in their cramped bedroom, which was accessible only through a very narrow passageway.

A worker known as Gary slept on the stage and was able to climb out. He said he tried coming back but the disco was too dark and smoky.

Bravo said they would rely only on the identities provided by the medico legal officer of the Philippine National Police in Cordillera.

The six female fatalities were identified by other workers of Perutz as dancers of the M&M Collection Models based in Laguna. They were only working for 10 days at the club when the fire broke out. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Roxas matriarch elated son to follow late grandpa's footsteps

**By Raj Padilla**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—There could be no prouder mom than Judy Araneta-Roxas, widow of the late Sen. Gerardo Roxas, and mother of former Trade Secretary and now Senate aspirant Mar Roxas.

Ms Roxas told the INQUIRER on Friday how happy she was to find her eldest son inching closer to the footsteps of his father, a former senator, and grandfather, the late President Manuel Roxas.

"I think that is his vision. I will support him all the way—his plans, ambitions and passions," said Roxas of the wealthy Araneta clan.

She said destiny has always been in Mar's favor and if luck comes his way always, he would even be more thriving in his chosen public career.

"Mar is a very dedicated person. Whatever he does, he does it with so much passion. God has given him so many blessings. He's intelligent. But he's biggest gift of all is that, his heart is in the right place—the desire to help," she said.

According to her, Mar wanted to become a senator so he can continue serving his people on a national scale.

"On a macro level, he wants to be of help to the greater majority. You have to be in a higher position to be able to do that," she said.

Judy was here as an honored guest of former Iloilo Rep. Albertito Lopez and his wife, erstwhile Guimaras Rep. and Gov. Emily Lopez, at the Christmas party of the Lopez-run Taos Puso Foundation in Zarraga, Iloilo last Friday.

When her chance to speak came, Judy appealed to thousands of people in attendance to give her son a chance to serve them better.

She told them that Mar knows the concerns of even the ordinary Filipino, the reason why he earned the monicker, Mr. Palengke, while serving as trade secretary.

"He believed that the market is a microcosm of life, particularly in our country. Whatever happens in the market, happens in the Philippines but in a different dimension," she said.

Roxas, 46, was a Capiz representative when deposed President Joseph Estrada assigned him the trade portfolio in 1998. He resigned though before Estrada was removed from power through a popular uprising. But President Macapagal re-appointed him.

# Armed robbers kill American

TAGBILARAN CITY—An American national was killed inside his home near midnight Wednesday in Valencia town, about 40 km from this city.

Police investigators were considering angles other than robbery in the murder of Robert Anderson, 40, because there was no sign of forcible entry and his belongings were "neither scattered nor misplaced."

Five men, three of them sporting fatigue camouflage uniforms and armed with assorted short firearms, entered the Anderson residence in Barangay Canduao, Valencia town about 11:45 p.m. last Dec. 10.

The suspects immediately attacked the sleeping Anderson, striking his head with a sharp instrument and stabbing him in the right side of his body, just below his armpit.

Anderson, of G-6477 North Seganaw, Mt. Morris, Michigan, died on the spot.

The suspects then demanded money from Anderson's wife, Ma. Lorna Galemba-Anderson, taking off with $400 and P2,500.

Before leaving, the suspects, using a blue nylon rope, hogtied Lorna to one of the house's interior posts but she said she was able to untie herself. *Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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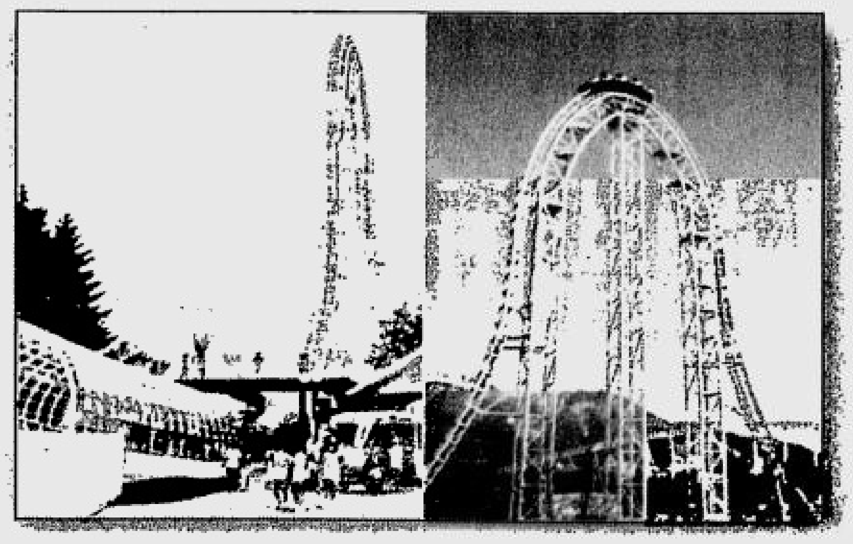

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# OFW group to deploy volunteers for polls

COTABATO CITY—An organization of overseas Filipino workers from Mindanao said it would deploy an island-wide pool of volunteers to help safeguard the citizens' votes during the 2004 synchronized elections for national and local positions.

The 200,000-strong Federation of Mindanao Overseas Contract Workers (Fedmoc) on Friday said it was activating some 5,000 beneficiaries and relatives of overseas Filipino workers for a series of activities, "first to help educate our members and their families on the mechanics of voting and the process of automated ballot counting."

The group said it was also tapping the help of retired overseas Filipino workers.

Fedmoc, a member of the Washington-based Global Filipinos, said the election-related program forms part of its commitment to the "growing advocacy for democratization or its strengthening in an already democratic country like the Philippines."

Esmael Maulana, Fedmoc chair, said his group would undertake a rural-based education and information drive (EID) for family members of OFWs on the conduct of the national elections.

He said the group's EID program would complement its other activities "lined up in the spirit of volunteerism."

Maulana said Fedmoc was also planning to expand its basic poll education drive to Filipinos abroad who would stand to benefit from the Absentee Voting Law.

He said the group also supports the clamor of OFWs that precinct-level counting should be done in their host countries to avoid electoral fraud, at least in the working sector. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Aetas fear crossfire from NPAs, Army

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PORAC, Pampanga—Both hands clutching his head and crouched in a corner of his relative's hut at the Planas resettlement here on Thursday noon, Apu Tongis Abuque looked every bit a bothered man.

His mind, the Aeta elder said, is in Barangay Kamias, some 8 km from where he had evacuated at Planas. Earlier, at 3 a.m., he led his clan of seven families out of Kamias.

Asked why they fled, he replied: "There are soldiers in the village and they are all armed."

For this old man who witnessed the intense armed conflicts between the military and New People's Army during the 1980s, the stationing of troops right in the tribal villages foreboded danger. The thought of being caught in the crossfire scared him.

*"Ing bie ming sibilyan kanyan ing mangasakitan* (It is us civilians who suffer)," Abuque said.

It also meant uncertainty. The women and children in his clan milled around Abuque, asking him when they would return to Kamias.

Worried over the safety of his grandchildren, he said it depended on the situation. They belonged to the 230 families that fled Sitios Balangkas, Sentro and Barsola this week, according to the Central Luzon Aeta Association (CLAA).

## Refuge

Many took refuge near streams. Some stayed in their *gasak* (mountain farms) where food was easily obtainable.

Kamias, like Barangay Nabuklod in Floridablanca, straddles the Pampanga-Zambales boundary that the military said is used now as an access and supply route of two factions of communist armed groups—the NPA and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan.

For the many clashes that occurred there in the 1980s, the border earned the term "Central Luzon's main battleground."

Col. Domingo Tutaan, commander of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion keeping watch of Nabuklod on the northwest side, said the military could not be expected to easily give up the border.

"It's also their staging area for the conduct of violent atrocities, which they have failed to do because of (the presence of) government forces there," he said.

But as the government soldiers and the rebels intensify the fight to control this border, CLAA secretary general Nelson Mallari said the safety of civilians is put at risk.

## Dialogue

Prospects of a dialogue to establish civilian peace zones seemed bleak.

On Thursday during a talk with Mallari, Col. Herbert Yambing, commander of the Army's 69th Infantry Battalion, expressed distrust to the CLAA.

Some of its leaders and members, Yambing said, may have communist links. Mallari maintained his organization was legal.

CLAA leaders claimed that human rights violations had been committed. Yambing denied these but said several instances of abuses by the soldiers in years past add to the difficulty of the military to win the civilians to their side.

The leaders said the discord in tribal communities was caused by the recruitment of militiamen among the Aetas.

In the villages, many members of the tribe had joined the NPA that in the 1980s grew strong, where landlessness, discrimination and government neglect bred extreme poverty. In Porac, the hometown of Gov. Manuel Lapid, the upland areas are without paved roads and regular social services.

## No intervention

Neither the local government nor the Commission on Human Rights has intervened to stop the armed conflicts in this part of Central Luzon despite several appeals by CLAA, Mallari said.

With their lives disrupted, elders like Abuque had not been able to meet to assert peace even as they recognized now the implications to the lives of civilians.

Kamias Barangay Captain Ben Capuno downplayed the situation, referring to the checkpoint in the village as only a "tollgate." But residents said this had restricted their movement and the flow of their farm produce.

# Group of researchers says genetic crops safe

SCIENCE CITY of Munoz—The country's research managers said genetically modified (GM) crops are as safe as any conventionally bred crops and pose no risk to humans consuming them.

In a statement, the Philippine Association of Research Managers (Philarm) said recently published statements on the supposed health and environment risks of GM crops were "biased" and "have no scientific basis."

"Genetically modified crops pose no risk both to humans and the environment," the Philarm, through its president Dr. Teotimo Aganon, said. Aganon is research director of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) here.

He said the Philarm's board of directors, in its recent meeting, decided to come out with the statement in reply to the "continuous misinformation" from foreign groups supporting the campaign against GM crops.

He said such information "has consigned the public and policymakers to ignorance and manipulation."

Aganon, however, did not identify these groups.

The Philarm said biotechnology should not be discredited because it is a tool that would help increase farm productivity.

Aganon said biotechnology could lead to reduced use of pesticides and herbicides, increased yield and longer shelf life of crops.

Critics of GM crops said genetic modification is unsafe because of its risks to the environment and human health. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

JRIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
PARTY

**CEBU UNITY**
**President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo savors the moment with her supporters in Cebu City—(left to right) Speaker Jose de Venecia, Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, Rep. Clavel Martinez, Rep. Antonio Cuenco and Rep. Simeon Kintanar.**
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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

# Boxers struggle in round vs Hepa B

**By Aquiles Z. Zonio**
*General Santos City*

THROUGH sheer determination, sacrifice and hardwork, former World Boxing Council International mini-flyweight champion Zarlit Rodrigo managed to get to the top.

His childhood dream was to become a world boxing champion. The 22-year-old former world champion was just a step away from it when harsh fate intervened.

He was crowned WBC International mini-flyweight champion two years ago when he beat Pampanga-born title holder Manny Melchor in a 12-round bout held at the Ynares Gym in Antipolo, Rizal.

He held the crown for less than a year. He lost to Ernesto Rubillar during his first title defense.

He had yet to recover from the throes of defeat when another poignant ordeal came. He was found positive of hepatitis B after a medical examination conducted by the Games and Amusement Board (GAB) in Manila.

At first, he felt as if the world around him was crumbling. He wanted to continue fighting but he was stripped of his license to fight. That even made him more dejected.

He trained hard to regain lost glory only to find out he is no longer fit to fight.

His malady compelled him to go home and find new pasture.

## Family of boxers

Zarlit is the eighth child in a brood of 13. His father, a cigarette vendor, was a former professional boxer way back in Zamboanga City.

Aside from him, his elder brother Leonard, 28, was also a professional ring fighter. In fact, he was once a stable mate of reigning world featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao.

It was their father who first honed their fighting skills and nurtured their passion for boxing.

However, only Zarlit, a bemedalled amateur boxer representing General Santos before turning pro, rose to international fame.

## Big chance

Zarlit claimed his case isn't actually hopeless. He said the doctor assured him he has a big chance to recover. But he must undergo an intensive and continuous medication, the cost of which he could hardly afford.

He earned for himself a meager P15,000 when he vied for the WBC international mini-flyweight title. During his first title defense he was paid P75,000.

No fight, no pay. The money he earned from boxing could hardly support the basic needs of his wife and two-year-old son.

Life turned bad to worse when he learned he is afflicted with Hepatitis B.

Instead of spending his little income for the needs of his family, he has to set it aside for his medicine.

## Boxing to shoe repair

Just like most Filipino professional boxers, Zarlit failed to finish high school.

He could hardly find a job.

To support his family, he works from dawn to dusk at the shoe repair shop of his elder brother.

He earns P100 to P150 daily, an amount, that could hardly make ends meet.

There's no more budget for his medicine.

Everyday, at the junction of NLSA road and J. Catolico Avenue in Lagao village here, Zarlit, clad in unkempt shorts and shirts, could be seen holding plastic strings and needles, knitting and fixing used up shoes and sandals.

He asked help from Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. but the mayor is still looking for a position suited to his qualification.

The mayor had also ordered city health officer Dr. Butch Penamante to find ways how the city could help Rodrigo in his medical needs.

Zarlit was grateful to the local leadership for showing high regard even to forgotten boxing heroes of the city.

But, he said, his urgent need is to find any kind of job to support the basic needs of his family and buy medicine for his illness.

"I need to find a job. Once I am cured, I want to fight again. Boxing is not just my main source of livelihood, above all it is my passion since childhood," Rodrigo said.

He continues to hope that it's not yet the end of his boxing career. He keeps on dreaming that one day fairy godmother would appear to whisk the cobwebs away.

## Another Hepatitis-B victim

Aside from Zarlit, another promising boxer from here who contracted Hepa B was Abner Cordero.

Cordero, 25, was the reigning WBC international bantamweight champion when he was diagnosed positive of Hepa B.

Since turning pro, Cordero, a knockout artist like Pacquiao, never lost in his 14 bouts. He was scheduled to fight for the world championship when GAB broke the shocking news to him.

He was perceived as one of the most promising boxers of the country.

Cordero, a son of a photographer and the eldest among a brood of seven, is appealing for help.

The two hepatitis patients were not aware where they acquired such kind of ailment.

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver, which can be serious or fatal, caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). The virus is found in the blood and other body fluids of infected persons. It can be transmitted through sexual contact, shared needles, infected mother to baby (at birth) and by exposure of infected blood or body fluid to mucous membranes.

## Mouthpiece sharing

Adriano Golingan, local GAB chair and former boxing promoter, said Rodrigo and Cordero could have contracted the virus through sharing of mouthpieces during the early part of their boxing careers.

The two represented the city in various boxing competitions during their stints as amateur boxers.

Just like Pacquiao, Rodrigo and Cordero were products of the "Boxing at the Park," a weekly boxing tourney here initiated by local boxing aficionados led by Golingan in coordination with the city government.

The tourney started way back in mid-1980s with the objective of developing and discovering potential boxers from the grassroots.

The newly-discovered talents were then staying at the dilapidated boxing gym under the watch of Mokong Nacionales, boxing trainer here.

Due to lack of facilities and logistics, the boxers were sharing mouthpieces during sparring sessions.

This prompted Golingan to put up his own boxing gymnasium located just beside the Family Country Hotel and Convention Center.

The gym, which is about 75 percent finished, is due for inauguration come Dec. 17 in time for Pacquiao's 25th birthday. The new world featherweight champion is among the guests invited to grace the occasion.

The boxing gymnasium, the first ever to be established here, will be conducive for training as it will be equipped with modern boxing and training facilities.

"I put up this gym to help the city develop and discover new talents. The use of the gymnasium will be free. But I am going to ask the city government to set aside some amount for the maintenance of the gym," Golingan said.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3621 Series of 2003

# First true-blue Pinay to train for space travel

From page A1

Mora was born in Sacramento, California, but she went to school both in the US and in her family's hometown of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. She finished an electrical engineering course at the Kyushu University in Japan where she was a scholar.

She is currently in Manila, on vacation from her job as a pilot of the Royal Fleet, a private aircraft service in Dubai.

She is using the time to meet up with colleagues from the Philippine Coast Guard, which she joined last year as a reserve pilot for rescue operations.

"It has always been my dream to travel to space, and I would be very proud to bring an honor like this to my country," Mora told the INQUIRER last Wednesday.

"It would also help me show Filipinos that they can do anything as long they put their heart and soul into it," she said.

"It's a good thing to dream big. For even if ultimately you don't accomplish the dream, you will have a much more fulfilling life along the way than if you just give up even before you start."

**WORLD,** here she comes with a big possible dream.

**GLOBETROTTER** Irene Mora (3rd from left) holds her own during a practice skydiving exercise in Thailand with other foreign nationals.

### Becoming truly Filipino

Before she began dreaming of space travel, Mora had already performed a soaring act of love for motherland by giving up her American citizenship and legally becoming a Filipino.

"It's just that I love the Philippines," she said, when asked why she decided to switch citizenship. "There's nothing wrong with being American. All people want to go (to America), right?"

"I would not exactly call it a 'decision.' It was something in my system, in my heart: that I'm a Filipino, that I needed to go back to where my parents were," Mora said. "Perhaps if (my parents) were Indian, I would go back to India. If they were Chinese, I would have gone back to China."

Her parents, Edna and Benito Jr., now reside in Mindoro. So do Mora's four siblings, all natural-born Filipino citizens. Benito is a retired businessman.

### Speaks 8 languages

Mora speaks several languages owing to her profession that sent her globe-trotting. Aside from Filipino and English, she can speak Japanese, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, Malay and Turkish.

Mora is now studying Russian as she will be heading for the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City next year under a training program offered by Space Adventures of Arlington, Virginia.

Space Adventures is the company that launched in 2000 the world's first "space tourist," Dennis Tito, an American.

Mora actually applied with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) three years ago, but her application remained pending after Nasa grounded its astronaut training program in the wake of the Feb. 1, 2003 Columbia space shuttle tragedy.

"So I looked for an alternative, which is Russia's cosmonaut program," she said.

Mora said she did so because she wanted to take advantage of her good health, youth and "aggressiveness."

### Physical training

Mora has completed various physical training courses, including scuba and skydiving, sea rescue and survival, zero-gravity exercises, and even combat.

While most people might consider these as death-defying activities, Mora's closest brush with danger so far was when she fell off a horse during an equestrian competition when she was a student in Japan.

She now considers her training as "my investments."

The training, which she herself had paid for, were squeezed in between her piloting duties for Royal Fleet.

Mora joined the company when she was only 19 as a flight interpreter, one who tries to break the language barrier between the pilot and the control tower.

### Just like mom

The only girl in a brood of five, Mora attributes her adventurous streak to her supportive, "broad-minded" parents.

Her mother, a housewife, was the original astronaut fan in the family, naming her firstborn Aldrin, after the second man to walk on the moon.

But it was the only daughter, the second child, who inherited her mother's attraction to space and air travel.

"My photographs as a young girl always had me holding a toy airplane," Mora fondly recalls.

Even at a young age, Mora said, she nurtured a desire to destroy feminine stereotypes.

This defiant side of hers was stoked by some of their Mindoro neighbors who, watching her grow up, wondered what was wrong with this girl who played with jet planes and trucks instead of dolls.

"*Alam mo naman ang mga tao, minsan walang* dream *kahit isa* (Some people don't have even a single dream)," Mora said with a sigh.

### Hunting with dad

"Since I was 4, they had been telling me: 'You're just a kid.' When I was 16, they were saying, 'You're just a woman, you have to stay home.' And I started asking why. Our neighbors raised their children like that."

"But my father? He would always say, 'Go for it, you can do it,'" said Mora.

She proudly recalled the hunting trips with her old man, and how she taught her brothers how to ride a bicycle.

### All woman

But for all the toughness she had built up as a pilot and outdoors enthusiast, Mora swears that just like any Filipina, she shops meticulously for the latest makeup and lingerie, and craves *mangga at bagoong*.

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# 'GMA does not listen to peace advisers'

From page A1

ta.

Mambintas implied the President would do better to listen to Ermita who was the government's chief peace negotiator before taking on the defense portfolio. The government peace panel is now headed by Silvestre Afable, the chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

"He [Ermita] may be in a better position to understand and appreciate the dynamics and practical application of pragmatism and flexibility in the conduct of negotiation and non-violent conflict transformation than those who succeeded him," Mambitas said.

"I believe that he also experienced frustration in his previous failure to win the peace, and the MILF and the government could make use of their previous interactions to correct what went wrong," he said.

MILF Vice Chair Aleem Abdulaziz Mambintas invites Saeed Daof, director general of the Center for the Promotion of Peace and Development of Mindanao for a one-on-one meeting on the peace process.

### Smooth transition

During the meeting, Daof said Mambintas also stressed that the transfer of leadership from the the late MILF chair Salamat Hashim to Al Haj Ibrahim Murad had been smooth. He said the MILF remained united and there was no discontent in the ranks, contrary to rumors.

Mambintas said that while he was the choice of Salamat to succeed him, he voluntarily offered the position of MILF chair to Al Haj Murad.

### Non-Muslim groups

In a related development, the MILF's head of political affairs, Ghazali Jaafar, yesterday said the group had a "frank and cordial" meeting last Monday with representatives of non-Muslim civil organizations to address the issues of Mindanao's non-Muslims, particularly the Christians whom he referred to as "descendants of the migrant settlers."

Jaafar said the consultation was the MILF's response to the clamor from this sector for the rebel group to answer some issues, such as how the peace agreement would affect them.

The MILF has been seeking the support of Mindanao residents for the peace process.

### Wary about intentions

Christians and non-Muslim residents of Mindanao, including the indigenous tribes, are wary about the MILF's real intentions because of the rebel group's secessionist and Islamist orientation.

Christians form the majority of Mindanao's 18 million population, only 18 percent of whom are Muslim.

"The non-Muslims clearly want to clear doubts on their status under a government to be run by the Bangsamoro, whether it is genuine autonomy, federal, free-associated or an independent state," Jaafar said.

He said that during the meeting, CSO representatives raised the issues of social justice, right to life, liberty, beliefs and abode, the right to economic opportunity and equal distribution of economic and natural resources under a government run by Muslims.

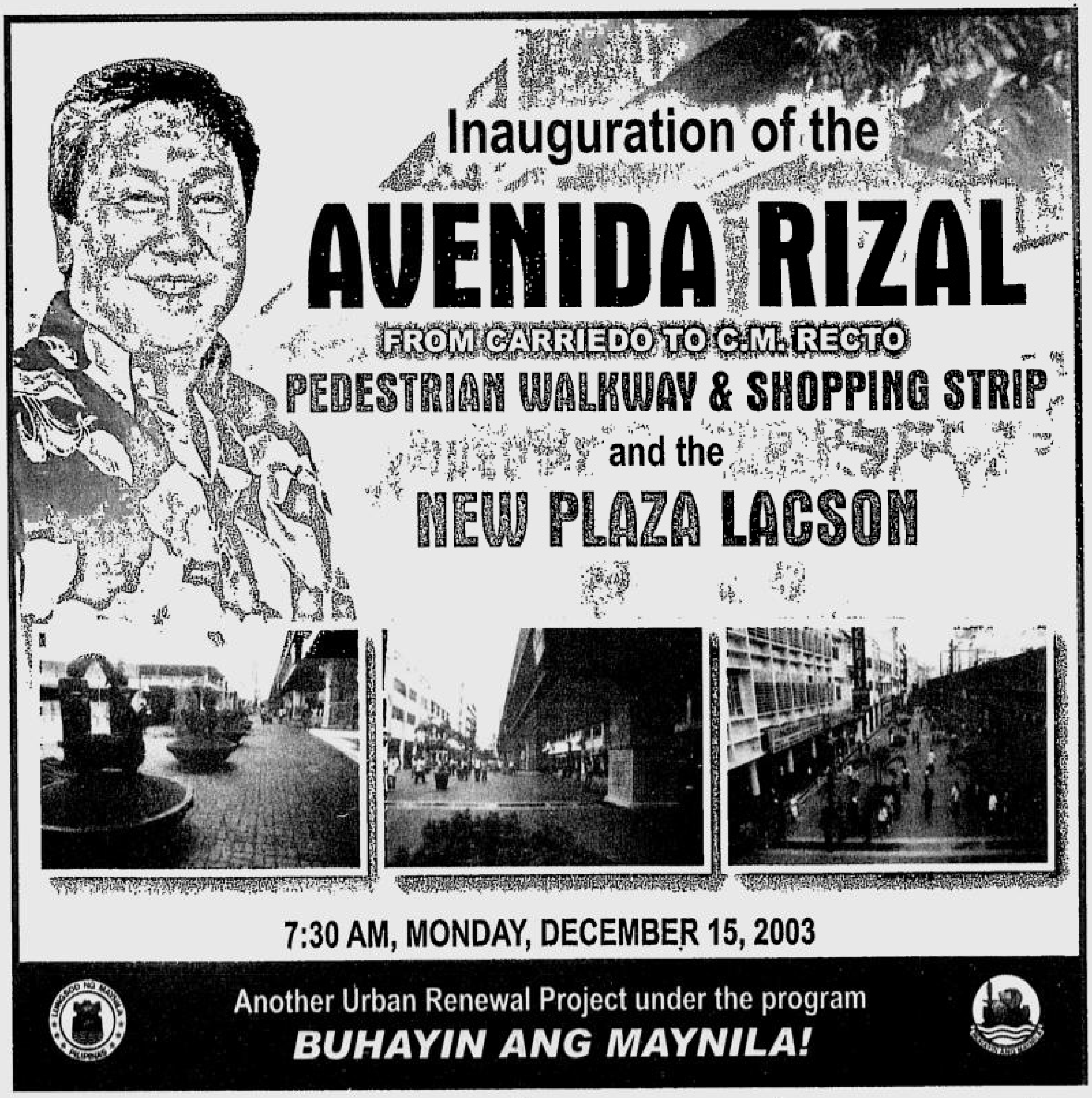
Jaafar said the MILF guaranteed that the people of Mindanao would enjoy equal rights.

### Ancestral domain

On the issue of ancestral domain that would also affect the indigenous groups, or lumad, Jaafar said: "Our immediate problem now is the liberation of our traditional territories before it is proper for us to proceed to the delineation of our ancestral domain and traditional territories."

But he said that agreements entered into by Muslim leaders in the past with the lumad would be respected and upheld.

These include the covenant on territorial boundaries entered into by Sultan Muhammad Dipatuan Qudarat I with the Manobo and the Subanon tribes during the 17th century and a similar agreement by Sultan Anwarudin Utto. *With a report from Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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- Sa pakikipag-isa ng DOT sa pangunguna ni Secretary DICK GORDON, Local Government Units (LGUs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), at pribadong sector, matagumpay na naipatupad ang mga malaking proyekto tulad ng:
  - WOW PHILIPPINES INTRAMUROS - Dumalo ang 16 na rehiyon ng Pilipinas sa Manila upang ipakita ang pinakamaganda at pinakamahusay sa kanilang turismo, kultura, kasaysayan, tugtugin at sayaw, pagkain, at pista.

  - BAGUMBAYAN LIGHT AND SOUND MUSEUM - Isang bagong museyo sa Intramuros tungkol sa ating kasaysayan at kay Dr. Jose Rizal. Hinihimok tayo nito na wasakin ang mga pader sa ating kaisipan upang umaksyon bilang isang bayan na matatag at malaya.

Intramuros & Rizal
Bagumbayan Light and Sound Museum

  - WOW NORTHERN PHILIPPINES HILAGA - Ang napabayaang Paskuhan Village sa San Fernando, Pampanga ay ngayon isang showcase ng turismo, agrikultura, kultura at kasaysayan ng mga rehiyong Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, at Cordillera Regions.

WOW PHILIPPINES
HILAGA

  - VICTORIES OF THE REVOLUTION LIGHT AND SOUND MUSEUM - Isang Museyo sa Imus, Cavite na ginugunita ang tagumpay ng mga Pilipino sa himagsikan laban sa imperyalismo at kolonyalismo.

KKK
HISTORIC
Imus
Museum

- Naglunsad ang DOT ng malawakang kampanya upang mapaganda ang imahe ng Pilipinas. Nagpalabas ng WOW PHILIPPINES at MORE THAN THE USUAL advertisements sa mga international tv stations tulad ng CNN at BBC.

- Noong nagka SARS outbreak, naki-isa ang DOT sa iba't-ibang sangay ng pamahalaan at pribadong sector upang ma-contain ang sakit. Pagkatapos ng masamang epekto ng SARS sa tourism arrivals, naging agresibo ang DOT sa pag-promote ng bayan.

- Pinatakbo ang programang Volunteer-12 o V-12, na naghikayat sa halos 7 Milyong Pilipino sa abroad na dalhin ang kanilang dayuhang kaibigan sa Pilipinas upang magbakasyon.

- Ginawan ng identification at accountability system ang mga taxi at taxi driver upang madali itong MAKITA, MAHANAP, at MAHULI kapag may krimen na naganap laban sa mamamayan at turista.

### ANG RESULTA: TRABAHO, NEGOSYO, POSITIBONG IMAHE - "Tourism Means Jobs"

- Pagkatapos ng ilang taong pagbaba ng tourism arrivals sa Pilipinas, tumaas ito ng 7.6% noong 2002 dahil sa agresibong aksyon ng gobyerno. Kahit pagkatapos ng SARS, kung kailan bumababa ng tourism arrivals sa buong Asia, hindi nagtagal ay bumalik na sa positive growth rates ang arrivals sa Pilipinas.

- Nagkaroon ng LIBO-LIBONG TRABAHO AT NEGOSYO sa industriya ng turismo. Sa Intramuros, 4000 na trabaho ang nalikha, at ang benta ng mga concessionaires ay umabot na ng Php 100 Million.

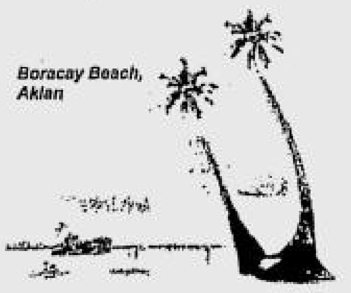
- Napabilib ang mga international tourism organizations sa bansa at sa liderato ng Pilipinas.
  - Sa International Tourism Bourse (ITB) sa Berlin, Germany, ang pinakamalaking tourism fair sa mundo, NANALO ANG PILIPINAS ng:
    - Best Booth (2001)
    - Best Marketing Effort (2002)
    - Best TV/Video Advertising Campaign (2003).
  - Ang Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) ay nagbigay ng 2001 Gold Award para sa Sustainable Community Based Ecotourism sa Sta. Juliana, Pampanga.
  - Itong 2003, si Secretary DICK GORDON ay binigyan ng award ng TTG Asia, ang nangungunang pahayagan ng turismo sa Asia, para sa Extraordinary Effort, Leadership, at Creativity.
  - Si Secretary DICK GORDON din ay nahalal bilang Chairman ng Pasific Asia Travel Association (PATA) at Chairman ng Commission for East Asia and the Pacific ng World Tourism Organization (WTO).

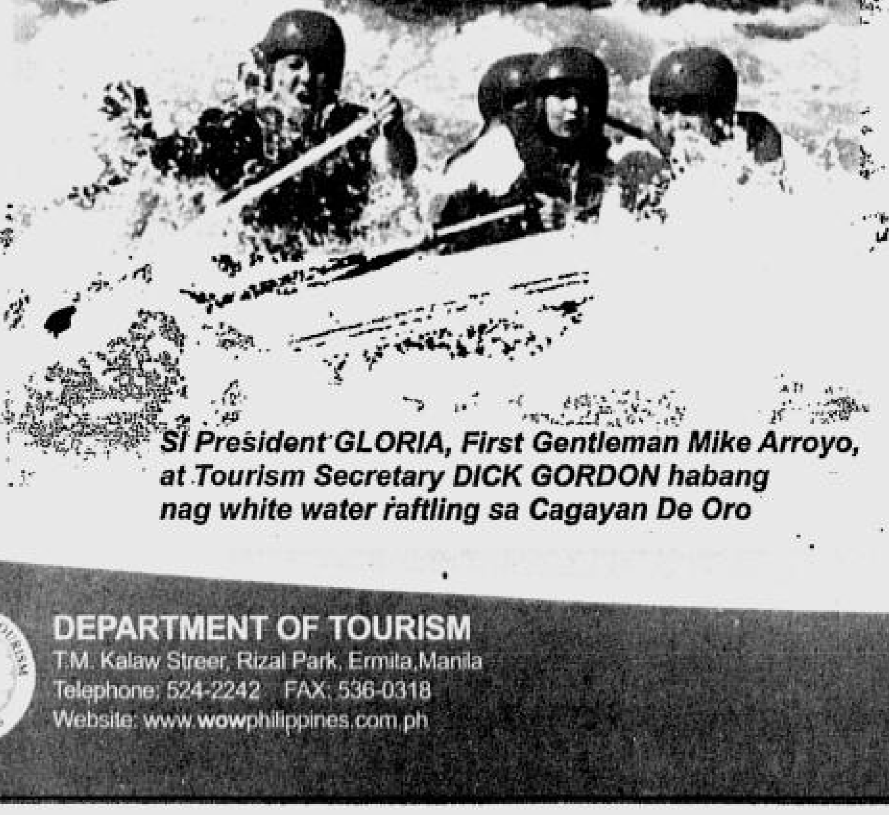
- Sa loob lamang ng apat na buwan, nakakuha ang DOT ng isang US$5 Million grant mula sa Japan para sa restoration ng Maestranza Wall, ang pinakahuling bahagi ng makasaysayang lumang pader sa Intramuros na nasira noong World War 2.

- Dumalo dito ang liderato ng turismo sa Asia para sa tatlong international conventions: PATA Board of Directors Meeting noong 2002, ang International Convention on Tourism Recovery and Anti-Terrorism noong December 2002, at ang World Tourism Organization Tourism Week noong June 2003. Ito ay nagsabi sa lahat na ang Pilipinas ay isang maganda at mapayapang tourism destination.

*Whale Watching Donsol, Sorsogon*

*Boracay Beach, Aklan*





*Si President GLORIA, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, at Tourism Secretary DICK GORDON habang nag white water raftling sa Cagayan De Oro*

> **" Pag maraming turista, masusunod ang pakay ng ating gobyerno. May trabaho, may edukasyon, may tahanan, may pagkain sa bawat mesa."**
>
> *-President GLORIA*

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**
T.M. Kalaw Streer, Rizal Park, Ermita,Manila
Telephone: 524-2242 FAX: 536-0318
Website: www.wowphilippines.com.ph

**BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!**

# 8 men bolt QC, Makati jails; 9 officers sacked

**By Tina Santos and Margaux Ortiz**

A POLICE precinct commander, a jail warden and seven jail guards yesterday lost their posts after eight men under their custody managed to escape.

Supt. Efren Manuel Sta. Ines, commander of Central Police District Station 9 in Quezon City, has been held responsible for the early morning jailbreak in his precinct and was immediately transferred to the Office of the District Director pending investigation.

In Makati City, a jail warden and seven jail guards were relieved when a Chinese inmate managed to escape from his cell at the Makati City Jail at around the same time yesterday.

The seven men who escaped from the Quezon City precinct—Marvin Pimentel, Francis Angeles, Roger Bacsal, Joel Tinaco and Brandy Nonida, Leonardo Sumacaton and Edwin Pinla—were arrested for theft and robbery-holdup.

According to a report, the inmates escaped at around 12:30 a.m. The seven men allegedly used their bare hands to pull out the iron grill of the window in their jail cell.

"The corroded nails could have allowed the prisoners to escape by just simply applying force to pull out the grill from the window," according to a police officer's report.

Upon hearing of the jail break, CPD director Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro immediately ordered the relief of Sta. Ines.

Sta. Ines was replaced by Supt. Benigno Durana.

Chief Supt. Arthur Alit, officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology yesterday relieved Makati City Jail warden Chief Insp. Pepe Quinonez following the escape of suspected drug lord Ding Kay Hui at around 1:30 a.m.

In a radio interview, Alit said the suspect may have escaped when jail officers Reynaldo Pascual and a certain Loyola asked permission to buy food outside at around 11 p.m. on Friday after conducting a prisoners' head count.

Ding, also known as Tony Lao, an alleged member of the 14K Chinese Triad, was arrested inside his condominium unit on Vito Cruz Extension, Makati City in 2000 after yielding five kilos of suspected shabu.

Alit said the suspect was given "VIP treatment" inside the jail, sharing his cell—complete with electric fan and television—with only one prisoner.

Alit said the jail officials will be placed under investigation to look into the possibility of connivance because there were no telltale signs of a "forced escape."

# PDI employee loses ₱.3M to con artists

AN EMPLOYEE of the Philippine Daily Inquirer lost some P300,000 in assorted jewelry after a member of her household was duped by glib-talking con artists in Caloocan City on Friday night.

Insp. Marcelo Mariano, Follow-up Unit chief of the Caloocan City Police Station said that it would only be a matter of time before the suspects fall into their hands.

Merly Carino, 22, a housemaid of Perlita Pascual, 42, PDI accounting department employee and resident of Novaliches, Quezon City, was able to identify one of the suspects—Joel Gaut, 22, a jeepney driver and resident of Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Police said Carino, a native of Ormoc City, received a phone call from one of the suspects and was made to believe that her employer had met an accident and needed cash to pay her way through.

The maid was then told to go to a certain spot in Monumento and turn the jewelry over to the caller, whom Carino took to be an associate of her employer.

Pascual only learned of the incident when she got back from work. *Tina Santos*

Princess, the golden retriever who found the bomb, stands by her handler Noel Buendia. JOAN BONDOC

# Dog sniffs out bomb in Greenhills mall

From page A24

formation booth at the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan, shortly after 7 p.m. Friday.

The commercial center's main power switch, which services the surrounding lines, is just a few feet away from the booth where the bomb was placed.

The booth itself stands in the middle of the shopping center's main covered pathway.

According to Senior Supt. Jesus Jose Samson, San Juan Police chief, the bomb was intended to disrupt the power supply outside the commercial complex, where a variety of shows are regularly held.

P03 Noel del Rosario, chief of the town's SWAT-EOD (Special Weapons and Tactics-Explosive Ordnance Disposal) unit, said the IED could blast windows half an inch thick.

The bomb is wired to a clock, he added.

Although the bomb would do little damage to a building, or even a concrete post, it is still potentially lethal to human targets, del Rosario said.

The SWAT-EOD detonated the bomb at around 9 p.m.

According to Viloria, he came to the booth to rest after doing his rounds when he saw the canister in the corner.

He said he sensed something wrong so he called Noel Buendia, Princess' handler.

"I saw something black so I told Princess to search," Buendia said. "Her reaction was immediate. She sat in front of it and refused to leave."

Princess belonged to a generation of bomb-sniffing dogs which were born and raised in the Philippines.

To make sure Princess got it right, Buendia called another bomb-sniffing dog, Tacha, a veteran K-9 officer.

Tacha confirmed Princess' findings, said Buendia, who has been the dog's handler since she was a year old.

Aside from Princess and Tacha, Mayor Ejercito has another dog undergoing training for bomb detection.

Together, they asked the guards to secure the area until the SWAT-EOD team arrives.

POLICE officials inspect parts of an improvised bomb that was found and defused at the Greenhills Shopping Center Friday night.

# *An officer and gentle mother takes charge*

**By Tarra Quismundo**

TALES OF THE CITY

POLICE Insp. Teresita Valerios Lim is more than just the sum of her many parts. Aside from being a multi-lingual criminology and law graduate, Lim is the commander of the Western Police District community precinct on Palanca Street in San Miguel, Manila, a Muslim community.

On top of that, she is a wife to a fellow police officer and a mother to three kids.

For this police officer, who has been in service for 25 years, juggling two full time jobs has kept her on her toes—with or without heels.

It's all a matter of management, with a little help from above, said Lim, whose straight black hair and wide eyes, which seem to compete with an equally wide smile, would belie her Chinese origins.

Lim reports to work as early as 6 a.m. to take on a job mostly handled by men.

## Commander

"She usually comes here earlier than we do," said PO1 Marlo Robles, who is among the 19 policemen and a female officer working under Lim. "There are times when we would not know that she is already in her office."

Aside from directing field operations, Lim handles paperwork, compiling statistics and typing up incidence reports in the community-level anti-crime nerve center.

And when militant groups decide to stage rallies in Mendiola on a Sunday—Lim's only day-off—she acts as deputy ground commander, overseeing security at the famed freedom park that is close to her precinct at the foot of the Ayala Bridge.

"Even when I am at home, I have to monitor events over the radio because you'll never know what could happen in your community," said Lim, who would usually get home at 9 p.m., except when duty calls her in later hours.

Lim, who never planned on becoming a law enforcer, related that she was chosen to handle the Palanca precinct because of her experience and her knowledge of the Muslim way of life.

## From China with love

"(Police officials) knew that I had a background on how they lived because I grew up in a community in Quiapo where there were many Muslims," said Lim, who spent her childhood in a one-story Spanish-style house in front of the San Sebastian Church and Plaza del Carmen, near her present workplace.

Her father, Chua Chiap settled in Manila with her mother, Margarita Valerios, whom her father had met in Ilocos.

Chua, who later changed his name to Jose Lim, was just a young boy when he set foot in the country.

## Close-knit

He arrived in the country before the Second World War, by hiding in a jar which his merchant relatives were transporting by sea from Xiamen, China.

After the war, Lim's father opened a business in Ilocos.

Her father's looks, which Lim described as an attractive mix of Chinese and Caucasian features, proved irresistible for a young Ilocana, who agreed to live with the immigrant at a time when the rest of the country were still picking itself up from the ravages of war.

The family moved to Manila, where her father opened up a Chinese restaurant.

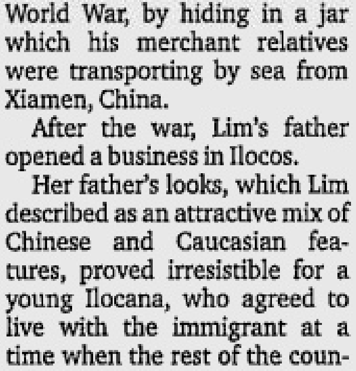
Lim's mother passed away in 1986. Nine years later, her father died.

"Our family was very close-knit," Lim said. "Although our parents were strict, we knew that they were just concerned for our welfare."

At home, the family members talk in a mix of different languages.

"My father spoke to us in Chinese, and my mother sometimes got jealous because she did not understand us, so she spoke to us in Ilocano," said Lim.

Lim later became fluent in Chinese, Ilocano, English and Tagalog.



At work, Lim is just another person in uniform. At home, she is a doting mother of three.

SENIOR Insp. Teresita Lim stands outside the precinct she commands. ERIK ARAZAS

## Interpreter

It was Lim's ability to speak Chinese that led her to the job she has grown to love.

"There was a homicide investigation of a Chinese who was killed in the old Luneta Restaurant. I was just a trainee then, but they asked for my assistance to act as interpreter during the questioning of the victim's relatives and witnesses."

That was in 1978, when Lim graduated from the Philippine College of Criminology.

Lim took up criminology after her parents rejected the idea of her studying fine arts and engineering.

She said she wound up at the PCC because it was the nearest school that offered a pre-law course.

She became an officer at a time when it was not fashionable to be so.

## Slow rise

"My classmates talked me into taking a qualifying exam to become a policeman. It was Martial Law then, and there was a high demand for lawmen. When the results came out, my classmates did not pass, but I did... I saw it as a challenge."

Lim, who as a child was often scolded by her parents for being too clumsy and for falling off the stairs, has arrested drug pushers and users, investigated murder cases, and responded to countless crime incidents since she acquired her badge in 1978.

"I have been assigned in all divisions at the (WPD) headquarters and has worked in many stations as chief administrative officer before I was assigned in the precinct," said Lim, who added that her rise up the ranks was rather slow.

"Sometimes it makes me angry because I feel like the male officers get promoted faster, and it's obvious that other officers are prioritized over me. But it challenges me all the more.

## Dragon year

It was in 1988, a dragon year—which the Chinese consider lucky—that Lim fell in love and married a fellow police officer. In November that year, they had their first child.

"My siblings advised me to give birth that year, because according to Chinese tradition, a woman of Chinese blood should have a child born in a dragon year," said Lim.

That luck held true for her first-born, Robin Joey, now 15, and a scholar at the Chiang-Kai-Shek College.

Her only daughter, Frances Jane, 10, is also a scholar at the same school.

As for her youngest, Robert Ryan, 2, she gets to play with him at home.

## Take it or leave it

Despite being in a job with a battered image, Lim said that she would lift her head up high each time she dons the uniform.

"I am proud of being a police officer... I believe we are useful," said Lim.

Lim, who has many times been given service awards, including a medal for exemplary performance in 2000 and now ranks higher than her husband, said that what really matters is getting the job done.

"It's a take-it-or-leave-it job. If you can't take the load and the pay, you can leave anytime. But as for me, the police officer's blood is already flowing through my veins," Lim said.

And fulfillment both in her job and her family is what has made Lim whole.

# Reward up for Pinoy wanted in Hong Kong

**By Leila Salaverria**

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is looking for Magno Manalili, a domestic helper who is wanted by the Hong Kong police for allegedly killing two professors there earlier this year.

The Hong Kong police has also put up a $HK400,000 (P2.8 million) reward for anyone who could provide information that would lead to Manalili's capture. The bounty offer, however, will expire in February 2004, according to the NBI.

The US Embassy had also expressed interest in the case because one of the professors was a US citizen. The Interpol division of the NBI is spearheading the manhunt.

NBI agents privy to the case said Manalili had been spotted in a cockpit in Pampanga but had eluded arrest.

MANALILI

Another NBI official also said that the bureau had conducted negotiations with the Manalili family for the turnover of the suspect. The NBI even reportedly offered the suspect's family the cash reward, but the Manalili family turned it down.

Manalili returned to the country in April this year, days after professors Ng Ka-Mong and Sun King Man were found dead inside their home in Shatin, Hong Kong. Manalili was their houseboy.

## METROBRIEFS

### Killing suspect falls

POLICE arrested Rodel Kempis, 18, for the killing of Philippine Normal University professor Ramero Royo in Manila two months ago. SP02 Steve Casimiro of the Western Police District said Kempis, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, was seen by Royo's younger brother inside the victim's apartment at the GSIS building in Sta. Mesa two days before the professor was found dead on Oct. 28. Insp. Norberto Obrero said another suspect, a minor, is set to surrender to the police. Casimiro said robbery was the motive of the two suspects. *Leila Salaverria*

### Snatcher nailed

ROLLY Perales, 24, on Friday was arrested for allegedly robbing a medical student, Sandra Cabate, at the Historical Walk in the Bonifacio Monument, Caloocan City. SP02 Ernesto Ablaza said Perales snatched the victim's bag containing P4,500 in cash and her cell phone, a Nokia 8210 worth P8,000, at around 7:30 p.m. Ablaza, who was then off-duty, saw what had happened and arrested the suspect. Cabate, 20, a student of the Our Lady of Fatima University in Valenzuela City, recovered her bag and cash. *Tina Santos*

### Strangler on a bus

A SUSPECTED drug user, Alberto Latombo, 32, of Occidental Mindoro, yesterday went amok and tried to strangle the driver of a passenger bus along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. Latombo caused a commotion when he shouted that there was a bomb inside a Pascual Liner bus at around 1:30 p.m. Latombo almost caused the bus to crash when he approached driver Creteno Cadari and squeezed his neck. Two Philippine Army men on foot patrol saw what was happening and subdued the suspect. *Tina Santos*

# Serna; 65

STEVE Serna passed away on Friday after a heart attack.. He was GMA 7's former audio-visual manager in the News and Public Affairs department.

Serna, fondly referred to as Tata Steve by his GMA family, was among the first to venture in TV commercials and documentaries. He was also known for his humanitarian projects for street children in Quezon City.

His remains lie at St. Peter's Funeral Homes on Quezon Avenue. Interment will be announced later.

# Search on for Metro's...

From page A24

ong's Barangay Vergara, San Juan's Barangay Addition Hills, Muntinlupa's Barangay New Alabang Village, Taguig's Barangay Ususan, Paranaque's Barangay Don Bosco, Las Piñas' Barangay Pamplona Tres, and Pasay's Barangay 49, Zone 7.

The winning barangay, which will be announced on Dec. 17, shall receive P100,000, while the 15 finalists will get P30,000 and a certificate of commendation, Godinez said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

**SUERTRES** 4 8 3

**SIX DIGIT** (In exact order)

3 9 3 2 4 8

**6/42 Luzon**

8 9 22 23 25 35

**Vis-Min**

6 11 25 30 34 41

# Search on for Metro's cleanest, dirtiest

**By Margaux Ortiz**

THERE is hope for a clean Metro Manila after all.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's search for the cleanest and dirtiest communities promises to achieve what similar contests have failed to accomplish in the past, according to MMDA Health Operations Center Director Dr. Liwanag Godinez.

We wanted to determine why a significant portion of Metro Manila still remains dirty despite the numerous contests for the cleanest barangay units in recent years, Godinez said.

The health director said that through the MMDA's latest project, they discovered that cities and municipalities only included the most select barangay units in the contests.

"These 'trophy' barangay (units) are presentable enough to begin with, while the more remote and neglected ones are ignored," Godinez explained.

She said that of 1,693 barangay units in Metro Manila, the local governments only submitted 196 in the MMDA's cleanest barangay contest.

Godinez said four teams from the agency will evaluate the remaining 1,497 barangay units "to see which will qualify for the dirtiest ones."

"Local government officials obviously do not want to reveal their dirtiest (communities) so we will do the job for them," Godinez said.

She said the agency is still in the process of identifying the filthiest communities in the metropolis, the results of which they will submit to the Department of Interior and Local Government for appropriate action.

Meanwhile, Godinez said the MMDA has already come up with the 16 finalists for the cleanest barangay search.

Qualifying for the final round are Caloocan City's Barangay 68, Zone 6, Malabon's Barangay Ibaba, Navotas' Barangay Bagumbayan (North), Valenzuela's Barangay Pulo, Pasig's Barangay Oranbo, Pateros' Barangay Aguho, Marikina's Barangay Santo Niño, Quezon City's Barangay Phil-Am, Manila's Barangay 489, Zone 48, Mandaluy-

SEARCH/ A23

## *Dog sniffs out bomb in Greenbills mall*

**Luige del Puerto**

MAN'S best friend averted on Friday night what could have been a possible shopping nightmare in Metro Manila.

Princess, a 3-year-old Golden Retriever belonging to San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, sniffed out a carpet cleaner canister which contained an improvised explosive device (IED), police said.

A rookie cop, P01 Manny Viloria, uncovered the canister, which was tucked under an in-

DOG/ A23

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4. For help in claiming, you can also call the Nestlé Manila Hotline at (632) 721-8714.
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Sunday SPORTS

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*Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

**BASKETBALL:** NBA-Bulls vs Bullets, Game 3, 1997 Eastern First Round; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports—Scottie Pippen slams home a crucial basket down the stretch as Chicago sweeps upstart Washington.

NBA-Lakers vs Blazers; 11 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Red hot Los Angeles attempts to burn Portland in this Pacific Division duel.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

## 5-GAME SWEEP

# RP dribblers stretch SEAG reign

**By Roy Luarca**

HO CHI MINH—The Philippines bared its true strength and routed Malaysia, 90-61, Saturday to stretch its reign in Southeast Asian Games men's basketball competitions here.

Flaunting their deep bench, the Filipinos led by as many as 32 points (74-42) en route to the rout that gave them a five-game sweep at the Military Region No. 7 Stadium.

It was a sudden turnaround from their scrambling victory over the Indons Thursday night.

"I told the boys *na ayaw kong umuwi sa Pilipinas na may talo. Di naman nila ako binigo* (I do not want to go back to our country as a loser. They didn't fail me)," said RP-Cebuana Lhuillier coach Aric del Rosario, who was teary-eyed during the post-game interview.

Counting their easy wins over the Thais, Vietnamese, Singaporeans and the win over the Indons, the Filipinos were virtual champions even before the opening tip-off as the Malaysians need to beat them by 42 points to wrest the crown.

No way would the Filipinos, champions since the 1991 Manila edition, allow that.

Setting the tempo right at the start, the Filipinos, behind the hot hands of James Yap, posted a 26-8 lead from which the startled Malaysians could not recover.

"My players looked like kids playing against men. Your team is definitely the best in Southeast Asia," said Malaysia coach American Felton Sealy.

The 6-foot-3 Yap, the Philippines' most prolific gunner, wound up with 22 points, including three triples.

Philippine Basketball League MVP Gary David and Celino Cruz added 13 each while Ranidel de Ocampo and Dennis Madrid, recovered from a groin injury, chipped in 12 and 11, respectively.

Using his burly frame, the 6-foot-5 De Ocampo combined with 6-6 Jean Marc Pingris and two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez of the Ateneo Blue Eagles, to rule the boards, 33-20.

Surprising the Filipinos with a fullcourt press, the Malaysians unloaded 10 straight points in a four-minute span to come to within 74-52, with still 3:42 left in the third quarter.

Not wanting a repeat of the Indon scare, Del Rosario sued for time and sent point guard Cruz back in.

When play resumed, Yap knocked in a triple, scored on a drive and Cruz flicked a triple to settle the outcome, 82-52.

The Philippines clinched its 12th basketball gold in the biennial meet, losing only in the 1977 and 1989 edition.

Del Rosario said the boys' occasional lapses were expected as they've been together as a team for only one week before flying to this football-crazy nation of motorcycles.

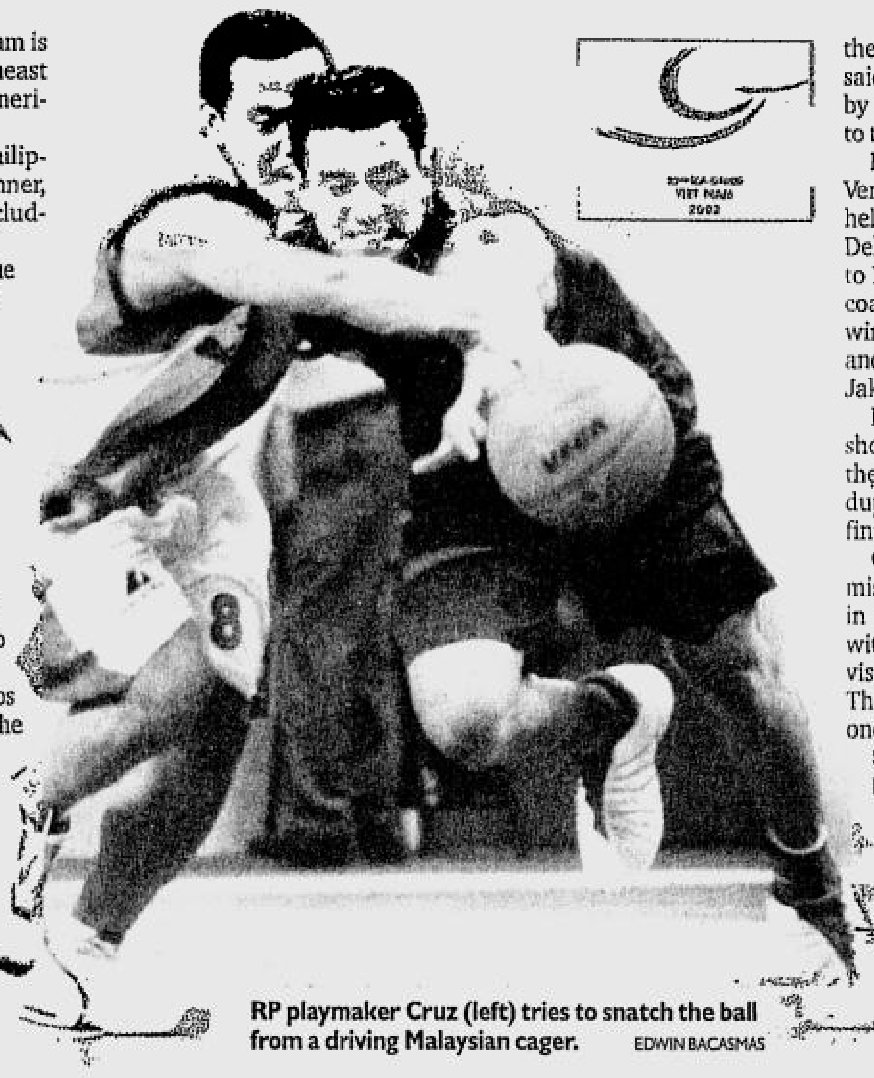
Team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier, who reiterated his desire to keep the team's nucleus up to the 2005 Manila SEAG, said the guys showed they can come back from a bad game and end good.

"All we can do now is encourage them (players) to stay with the national team. We've offered them a long-term program and the balls are now on their hands," said Lhuillier, who was assisted by Danny Francisco in attending to the players' needs.

Boyzie Zamar and Dong Vergeire relished the crown they helped win for the 63-year-old Del Rosario, who raised his titles to 12. They were SEAG champion coaches themselves, with Zamar winning in 2001 in Kuala Lumpur and Vergeire topping the 1997 Jakarta edition.

Hobbled by poor freethrow shooting, the Filipinas yielded to the Singaporeans, 44-40, earlier, duplicating their bronze medal finish in Kuala Lumpur.

Coach Bai Cristobal's charges missed five of their eight charities in the last two minutes to finish with a 3-2 card in the women's division swept by the Malaysians. The Singaporeans landed second.



RP playmaker Cruz (left) tries to snatch the ball from a driving Malaysian cager. EDWIN BACASMAS

**Scores:**

**Men:**

**RP 90**—Yap 22, David 13, Cruz 13, De Ocampo 12, Madrid 11, Pingris 8, Calimag 4, Alvarez 4, Melencio 2, Sotto 2, Gonzales 0, Salangsang 0.

**MALAYSIA 61**—Ng 14, Satyaseelan 12, Ong 9, Koh 9, Lim 4, Ang 3, Francis 2, Chan 2, Wong 2, Tan KH 2, Tan CH 2, Singh 0.

**Quarters:** 26-8, 45-26, 76-35, 90-61.

**Women:**

**SINGAPORE 44**—Zhou 16, Li 14, Zhang 7, Yao 3, Zhao 3, Chiew 1, Li ling 0, Tan 0.

**RP 40**—Valencia 10, Narciza 8, Grazales 6, Esteban 5, Bambico 5, Vega 2, Lubiano 2, Faustino 2, Enriquez 0.

**Quarters:** 9-10, 15-19, 28-30, 44-40.

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vietnam | 158 | 97 | 91 | 346 |
| Thailand | 90 | 93 | 98 | 281 |
| Indonesia | 55 | 68 | 98 | 221 |
| Philippines | 48 | 54 | 75 | 177 |
| Malaysia | 44 | 42 | 59 | 145 |
| Singapore | 30 | 33 | 50 | 113 |
| Myanmar | 16 | 43 | 50 | 109 |
| Laos | 1 | 5 | 15 | 21 |
| Cambodia | 1 | 5 | 11 | 17 |
| Brunei | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| East Timor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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# *Paragua delivers clincher as men's squad prevails*

**By Roy Luarca**

HO CHI MINH—IM Mark Paragua delivered the clincher Saturday as the Philippine men's team added the standard chess gold to its medal collection in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games here.

Paragua beat Vietnamese IM Pham Minh Hoang in the ninth and final round, where his teammates settled for draws, to hand the Filipinos a scary 23-22.5 victory over the Indons at the Van Don Hall.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre wound up with the bronze medal in individual play where Indons GM Utut Adianto and Susanto Megaranto landed first and second.

For a while, Torre had a chance for the title as Adianto and top-seeded Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai were locked in a tight battle in Board 1.

When Adianto won for an unreachable 7.5 points, Torre grudgingly agreed to split the point with Singapore GM Wu hao Bin and finish with 6.5 points. Megaranto also posted the same total, but was awarded the silver after the Buchholz tiebreak was applied.

The 19-year-old Paragua ended up with 6 points, GM Bong Villamayor, who drew Vietnamese Nguyan Anh Dung, added 5.5; while IM Ronald Dableo scored 5 following a draw with Thai Suchart Chaivichit. GM Joey Antonio also had 5 after a draw with Malaysian Lee Yee Weng, but he did not count due to a lower Buchholz.

It was the Philippines' third gold in the event held in the biennial meet for the first time.

# Late wushu gold binge boosts RP

**By Ernesto Gonzales**

**HANOI—In a span of 12 hours, wushu artists Arvin Ting and Willy Wang pulled off golden doubles that sent the Philippines from fifth to fourth overall for good in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games Saturday.**

The two teenagers, who came up with wushu's first two golds Thursday, returned to the arena Saturday morning to complete the victory double that solidified the Filipinos' status as No. 4 in the standings.

The 15-year-old Ting, showing why he's the world broadsword champion, topped his favorite event with 9.33 points after ruling the gunshu event Friday.

Wang, 19, added the sword title to his earlier gold in the qianshu category by nosing out Vietnam's Nguyen Doan Trung, 9.26-9.25.

As Thailand was depriving host Vietnam of its most coveted triumph with a 2-1 win in football, Eduard Folayang and Dolly Andres delivered in the sanshou (sparring) events late Friday night.

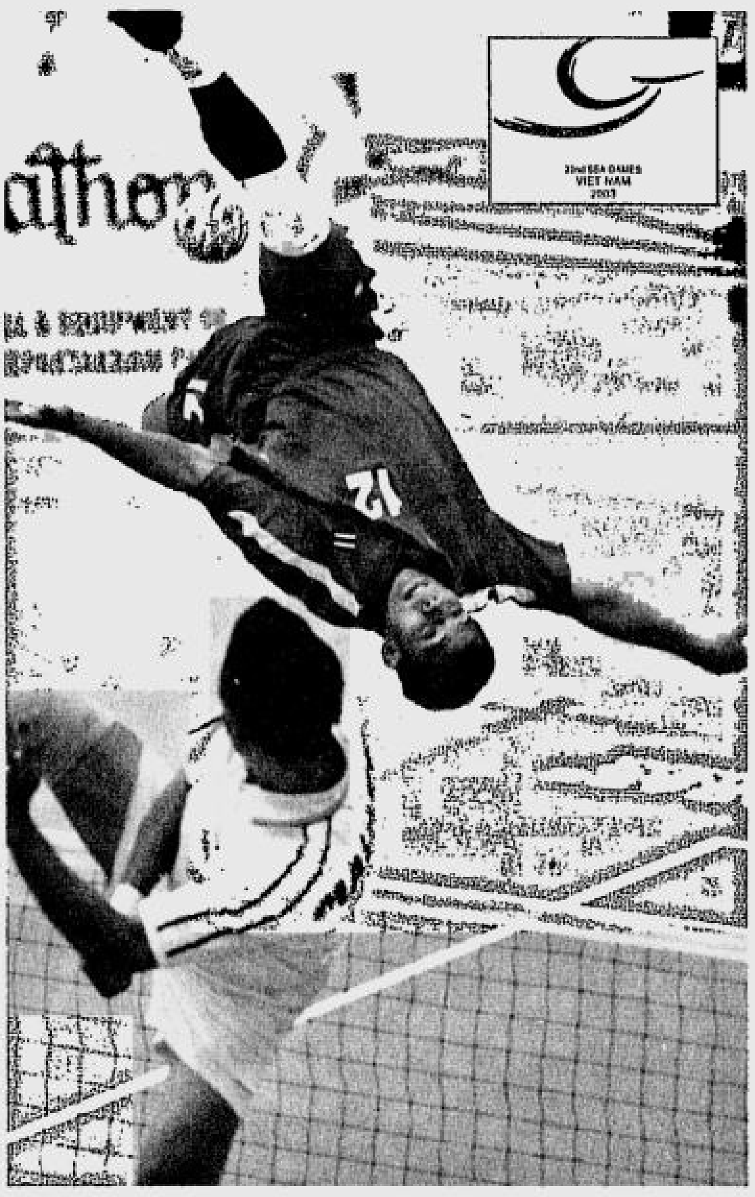
Folayang beat Thai Wiphakdeerattanamee, 2-0, in the men's 70-kg event while Andres nipped Vietnam's Ngo Thi Ha, 1-0, in the women's 52-kg final.

With the twin victories, the Filipinos tied the Malaysians' 43-gold output and officially moved up to fourth with more silvers, 52-41, going into the final day of the competition.

Team manager Francis Chan, lifetime honorary president of Philippine wushu, said the Filipinos could have won more if not for the hometown advantage Vietnam exploited to the hilt.

The hosts wound up with a leading haul of 13 golds although the second-running six victories of the Filipinos surpassed by two their total effort in Malaysia two years ago.

The Filipinos also captured four silver medals, including a heartbreaking defeat by Rene Catalan in the men's sanshou 48-kg final.



**THAILAND'S Prasert Pongpung (12) kicks the ball toward Malaysia's Mohd Putra during the men's regu sepak takraw final at the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Hanoi Saturday. Thailand defeated Malaysia, 21-15, 21-16, to win the gold.** REUTERS

# GMA lauds delegation

HANOI—President Macapagal Arroyo yesterday congratulated the Philippine delegation even before it could return home from the 22nd Southeast Asian Games where it retained fourth place overall and hit its target in terms of gold medals won.

"The President as well as First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo are very happy about the result of the SEA Games," said Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"They [Filipino athletes] make us proud of them and they make Filipinos stand tall," Buhain quoted the President as saying.

President Arroyo has closely monitored the Philippine delegation to the SEA Games and in fact, cheered the team to go all out for its modest goal of finishing fourth and bagging no less than 40 gold medals.

Buhain lauded both the President and the First Gentleman for being hands on with Philippine sports.

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## SPORTSWATCH

### NCA derby resumes tomorrow

THE "NCA 7-Cock Derby" derby series resumes on Monday and Wednesday, at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum, with more than 60 quality fights lined up. Hosts are partners Ruel Ricafort, JV Magsaysay, Tos Reyes, Edgar Santos and Mayor Nic Patenia. Submission of weights is today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928. The much-awaited "World Slasher Cup 2004 8-Cock International Derby" is set for Jan. 19, 21 and 23 with Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Firefly Group, Gov. Ito Ynares, Rene Medina and Pico Berin as co-hosts. For other details, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928.

### Car clubs hold 1st national games

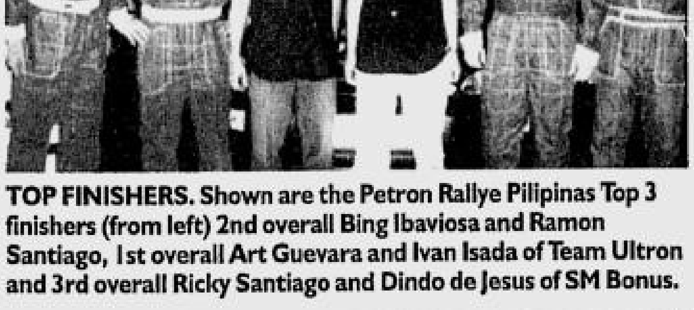
ENTHUSIASTS from different car clubs in the country will vie for different prizes in the 1st National Inter-Car Club Games at the Boom na Boom complex in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City today. At least seven car clubs have confirmed participation in the Paintball Adventure and Karting Enduro, both sponsored by Petron. They include the Vintage Cars Club, Mercedes-Benz Club, Volkswagen Club, Mini Cooper Club, Everyday Holiday Car Club, and Club Mitsu. Five participants from each club will compete in the paintball shooting event while a maximum of three will be allowed in the karting race.

### Konka top seed in semifinals

DEFENDING champion Konka Plastics handed UCM Cooling Coils its first loss, 65-58, to emerge top seed entering the crossover semifinal phase of the GCHS Inter-Batch basketball tournament at the GCHS gym. Coming from a 61-73 defeat against Congo Grille, Konka posted a 37-30 lead at the turn and banked on timely outside shots of Francis Tiu to thwart the Cooling Coils. Tiu topscored with 23 points while Lin Yih Liang and Alvin Lim chipped in 17 and 12, respectively. Konka meets fourth seeded Anson's in the semifinals with the winner facing either UCM or YKL in the championship. The tournament is sponsored by Red Bull Barako, Uratex, UCM Cooling Coil and One Spa and Fitness Center.

### Fistorama 10-round fight on RPN-9

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features an exciting 10-rounder in the minimum flyweight division as Rodel Mayol battles Namchi Thaksinisaru in a fight held recently at the state-of-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arenà in Bicutan, Taguig. The show is aired weekly in the United States, Australia, Japan and the Middle East through ABS-CBN's Pinoy Central TV. Commentators are Ed Picson, Quinito Henson and Taby Tabaniag. Now on it's second year, it is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN 9. Chief backers is Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. Golf Power follows the boxing program at 3 p.m.



**TOP FINISHERS. Shown are the Petron Rallye Pilipinas Top 3 finishers (from left) 2nd overall Bing Ibaviosa and Ramon Santiago, 1st overall Art Guevara and Ivan Isada of Team Ultron and 3rd overall Ricky Santiago and Dindo de Jesus of SM Bonus.**

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**WINNING TEAM. Members of the Far Eastern University team display the giant Sportshouse gift certificate representing the P50,000 worth of sports equipment they won as champion of the 2003 Philippine Badminton Tournaments (PBT) Intercollegiate Cup at the Olympic Badminton Center. Also shown are Philippine Badminton Association vice president Gen. Edgardo Aglipay and PBT project director Weena Lim.**

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# Heroes' welcome, cash incentives await athletes

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

A HEROES' welcome is prepared for the main bulk of the Philippine delegation who are set to arrive today after competing in the just-concluded Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

The athletes, who have successfully surpassed the country's performance two years ago in Kuala Lumpur, are also expected to receive a windfall of cash incentives through the Athletes Incentive Act.

The law, signed only last year, entitles each gold medalist to a P100,000 bonus, while winners of silver and bronze, get P50,000 and P20,000, each respectively.

At the end of the Games, the country amassed 48 golds, 54 silvers and 75 bronzes, besting the its dismal 31-65-67 tally in Malaysia two years ago.

Still, the 600-strong RP contingent, the biggest sent abroad in the past three editions, fell short of the third-place finish the Philippine Sports Commission earlier predicted as the country placed fourth in the final standings.

The 16-gold increase in the tally is also a reflection of the jacked up number of events the Philippines took part in compared in the KL.

The country competed in 28 sports disciplines in an attempt to send as many athletes as possible in preparation for the 2005 SEAG which the country will be hosting.

As expected, track and field wound up as the biggest earner with eight golds to show, followed by wushu with six and taekwondo with five winners.

"We are already very happy with the performance because we know for sure that with the onslaught of Vietnam, everybody will just be scrambling for crumbs," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Steve Hontiveros.

# Making Manny mature

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

THE HARDEST part in a boxer's life is facing the specter of defeat. When he loses, a part of him dies. That's because every boxer, as in every warrior, goes to battle brimming with confidence. If defeat happens, he suffers enormous pain. If he loses by the so-called skin of his teeth, sleepless nights could set in. The suffering keeps stabbing the victim that if he isn't made of sterner stuff, insanity could set in. I've seen boxers being unable to cope with defeat. One of them is Rolando Navarette. But that is another story.

It is the same with many sports officials handling boxers.

One such guy is Manny Lopez, the president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines. For many years now, Manny has known pain, suffered it in silence, ate it for breakfast. He seems virtually numbed by it already.

"I seem not to know anymore how to react to debacles," Manny Lopez tells me, a day after arriving from Ho Chi Minh on Thursday. "I've done everything I could, and here I am again, coming home a beaten man."

He has seen victory slip by him in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and suffered the ignominy of going gold-less in the 2001 SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

This year, Manny Lopez, seeing that six of his boxers had marched to the finals, felt triumphant and smelled victory even before his first ward could climb up the ring.

Alas, only one struck gold: Harry Tañamor, a light-flyweight.

And Manny Lopez was even being blamed for the sorry, ghastly sight of the crowd pelting the ring with plastic bottles and other debris in protest over a decision declaring a Filipino loser to his Thai opponent.

"I lost again, but the sadder part was I was being blamed for the riot that ensued after our boy Ferrer (Florencio) lost what looked like a won fight," Manny says. "It was a double whammy."

Anwar Chowdry, the powerful president of Aiba (World Amateur Boxing Federation), accused Manny Lopez of instigating the debris-throwing incident on Thursday. Manny quoted Chowdry as telling Manny, "When you stood up to leave, that was the signal for the crowd to riot."

What a stupid accusation, to say the least.

"How in conscience could I have possibly done that when the pelting had already begun before I stood up?" said Manny. "The rioting Vietnamese people do not know me from Adam. Their anger was spontaneous. The truth was, I stood up to get to Prof. Chowdry and protect him from harm. *Ako pa ang napasama.*"

Sure, there were Filipinos in the crowd but "it was the local folk who readily expressed their anger over the raw deal that Ferrer got from the judges," said Manny.

Police have arrested two Vietnamese spectators caught throwing debris, some aimed at Chowdry.

For the record, the Philippines finished 1-5-1 (gold-silver-bronze). We were 0-2-5 in 2001 in Kuala Lumpur.

Of the eight Thai boxers who barged into the finals, seven won. But easily, judging by the reaction from the Vietnamese crowd, three of the seven Thai winners could have lost to Ferrer, pinweight Juanito Magliquian and featherweight Roel Laguna. The talk was, boxing, the dirtiest of sports, has reared its so-called ugly head again in Vietnam in the form of biased, if not fixed, officiating.

"Anyway, I consider the case closed," said Manny, exhibiting once more his patented diplomatic stance when confronted with debacles such as the one in Ho Chi Minh. "We have to continue working. The Olympics next year will be our next target. We have the Olympic qualifying in January in Palawan and already, 150 boxers from the region have signed up for it. Our boxers are ready."

The other two events to pick boxers from Asia for the Athens Games next year are also set for next year in China and Pakistan.

"Despite this sorry incident once more, I'm not stopping," said Manny, so engrossed in boxing that his brother, the eminent lawyer Alex, calls Manny "a philanthropist."

"He hasn't done anything for the last 15 years or so, except to chase that dream—to win the country's gold medal in the Olympics," Alex Lopez said of his elder brother.

Maybe, if only to make the matter on record—and assuage the feelings of Manny Lopez—Olympic president Cito Dayrit should submit an incident report to the International Olympic Committee regarding the riot that marred the Ferrer fight. Such report should be signed by Frank Elizalde, the Filipino IOC representative of the Philippines.

It's a small move but isn't it said that a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step?

# SMB-Coke do-or-die tiff today

Game 1-SMB d. Coca-Cola, 84-81
Game 2-Coca-Cola d. SMB, 103-79
Game 3-SMB d. Coca-Cola, 86-81
Game 4-Coca-Cola d. SMB, 87-84
Game 5-Coca-Cola d. SMB, 86-84
Game 6-SMB d. Coca-Cola, 85-80

**By June Navarro**

**IT'S a do-or-die Sunday for San Miguel Beer and Coca-Cola as their sibling rivalry reaches boiling point in Game 7 of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference Finals today at the Araneta Coliseum. Game time is 6 p.m.**

The Beermen forced the sudden-death affair after repulsing the Tigers, 85-80, in Game 6 Friday night that shoved coaches of both competing ballclubs to their first ever stint in a best-of-seven decider.

Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes will gun for a fourth coaching crown since bringing his craft to the league nine years ago while San Miguel Beer mentor Jong Uichico shoots for his sixth title but none of them had ever gone the distance in the Finals.

With all of their cards already laid out after six championship games, Reyes and Uichico will now pin their hopes on the players who will roll the red carpet for them to reach the promised land.

"There are no secrets anymore. *Lahat ng baraha nakalabas na*. The team which will play hardest and smartest will win Sunday's game," said Uichico, whose last championship with the Beermen was the 2001 All Filipino Cup.

Reyes, who steered the Tigers to an All Filipino Cup Finals crown on their rookie season last year, shared the same sentiment.

In a tournament supposedly dominated by the imports, the locals have been standing out, especially with the Beermen, who are carrying a limping Kwan Johnson on their backs to keep their hopes alive in the series.

Johnson hurt his groin again as he was clutching his left thigh most of the time in Game 6, which will leave Danny Ildefonso, Olsen Racela, Nic Belasco, Dorian Peña, Boybits Victoria, Dondon Hontiveros and Joey Mente no choice but to take the load off their import.

Tee McClary will again try to exploit this mismatch versus Johnson while Rudy Hatfield and Jeffrey Cariaso dispel off the local SMB challenge along with Poch Juinio, Johnny Abarrientos, Rafi Reavis, Rob Wainwright and Ato Morano.

## *Mavericks end drought in LA*

LOS ANGELES—Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and 12 rebounds and Antoine Walker added 27 points and 10 rebounds to give the Dallas Mavericks their first win in Los Angeles for 13 years, 110-93, over the Lakers on Friday.

The Mavericks, who had not won a game in Los Angeles since Dec. 12, 1990, took an early lead, dominated for much of the game and then survived a determined Laker comeback. *Reuters*

**Complete results:** Denver 86, Philadelphia 77; Minnesota 110, Washington 91; Boston 114, Toronto 111; Indiana 103, Atlanta 92; Miami 91, Memphis 88; Seattle 93, Detroit 72; New Jersey 99, Orlando 95; Milwaukee 109, Chicago 95; Sacramento 100, Utah 93; New Orleans 96, Golden State 85; Dallas 110, LA Lakers 93.

## Young Guns kicks off jungolf sked

THE SECOND staging of the popular Young Guns at the Legends on Friday (Dec. 19) at Manila Southwoods will kick off a busy tournament schedule for local junior golfers during their holiday break.

The Young Guns, according to tournament director Luigi Tabuena, is an 18-hole tourney for players aged 12 years and below and patterned after the US Kids world championship in Virginia where RP players like Dottie Ardina and AR Ramos had already won the past two years.

It also puts a special focus on the youngest players of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, bringing together both the seasoned campaigners as well as the up-and-coming talents.

Trophies and prizes are provided by tournament sponsors Smart, Bellevue, Price Smart, Duty Free Phils., Marvin Sports Plaza, Nestlé, Gatorade, International Container Terminal Services Inc., SharExchange and Golf Depot.

As of the last count, there were already 25 girls and 55 boys in the registry. The host venue is allowing practice rounds at a discounted rate.

Aside from Ramos and Ardina, also among the entries are Ma-an Legaspi who had just won her first major international title in the Sarawak Chief Ministers Cup and the multititled Miguel Tabuena.

"After a very successful inaugural last year, we felt that the Young Guns has the potential to become a major competition not just locally but also of international scale. We're looking forward to that next year," said Tabuena.

Aside from the Young Guns at Southwoods, other events lined up for the jungolfers are the Nike Jungolf Christmas Tournament at Riviera and the Nike Visayas tourney at the Cebu Country Club which will be held on the same day, Dec. 22, the Alabang Invitational on Dec. 23 and the Japan-Philippines Friendship Meet early next year at the Tagaytay Midlands course.

For inquiries, call the Jungolf Secretariat at the second floor of the Makati Golf Club in Bel-Air through 893-95-99. Look for Gay.

## Rivera, Carandang share honors at Legends

HECTOR Rivera of Alabang bagged the overall title while Fred Carandang of Southwoods emerged the low gross scorer in the recent Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic at the challenging Legends course of the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite.

Rivera, scoring 47 net points, and Carandang, turning in an impressive 5-over-par 77, finished on top of a huge field of 120 players who saw action in the revival of the event for swinging seniors organized by the Federation of Exclusive Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

Winning the other divisions were Bert Lagaya of Southwoods for Classic (55-59 years), Sao Nam Lee of Eagle Ridge for Elite (60-64), Teodorico Zamora of Valley for Statesmen (65-69) and Southwoods entry Arlette Dizon for Reynas (ladies). Lito Javier topped the guest division.

Sponsors for the Senior Care Classic are Diageo/Johnnie Walker, Information Professionals Inc., Asian Terminal, Century Park Sheraton, Deutsche Bank AG, Dunlop Salzenger, Group Management Dev't Inc., Kraft Foods Philippines, Caylabne Resort, Milestone Hotel, Makati Shangri-la Manila, Philippine Airlines, F.E. Zuellig Inc., INQUIRER Golf Monthly and the Pearl Manila Hotel.

Trophies and merchandise items were handed out to the winners.

Lagaya's 46 points had him beating Virgilio David (SW) and Rene Garcellano (Valley) by five.

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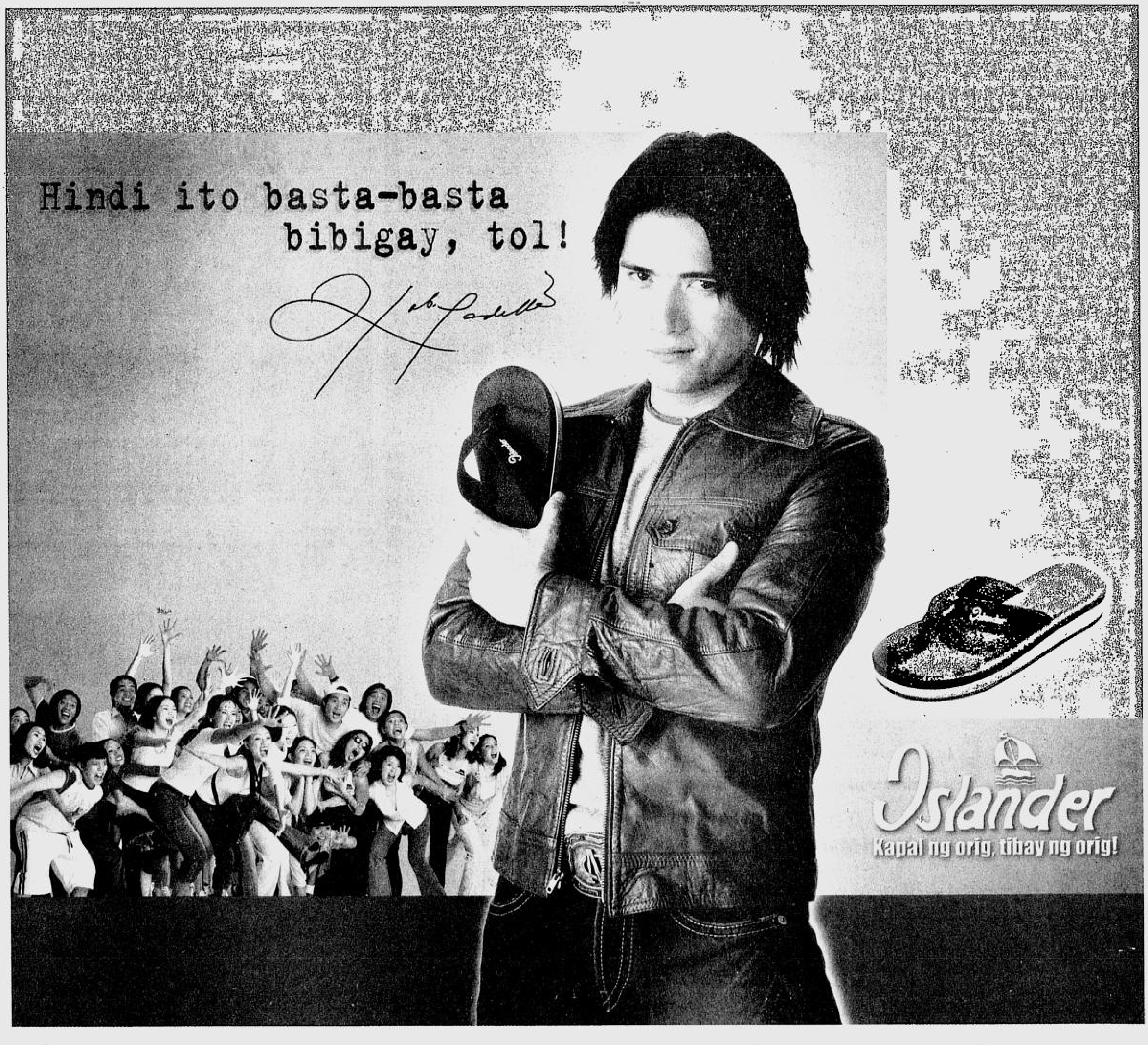
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5230240
1 GOOD BOY!
2 ELF
3 CABIN FEVER
4 JEEPERS CREEPERS 2
5 RUGRATS GO WILD
6 MYSTIC RIVER
7 ALIPIN
8 INTERNET QUEEN
9 THE GRUDGE
10 SCARY MOVIE 3
11 STAR RUNNER
12 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

**SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO**
(088) 8592084
1 MASTER & COMMANDER
2 STAR RUNNER
3 THE WISHER
4 LOONEY TUNES

**SM CITY BAGUIO**
(074) 4464505
1 SCARY MOVIE 3
2 LOONEY TUNES
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**THE PODIUM CINEMA**

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 MYSTIC RIVER
5:00 FS/5:30 MF/8:20/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END

2 RUGRATS GO WILD
10:55 FS/11:25 MF/1:15/3:05/4:55/6:45/8:35/9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/11:45 END

*For Seat Reservation, call 633 6975 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS*
Matinee - P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday • Regular: P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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@ Robinsons Malls

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Annual National
Consumer's Quality Award 2003

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DIAL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555

**Galleria** 632-9115-16 687-0593

THX /All Digital

1 OUT OF TIME 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55 THX
2 JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40
3 RUGRATS GO WILD 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
4 MYSTIC RIVER 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:55
5 CABIN FEVER 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6 GOOD BOY 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
7 INTERNET QUEEN 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
8 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9 THE GRUDGE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
10 ELF 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm ( EXCEPT HOLIDAYS )

**Ermita** 526-7185 536-7809 to 12

1 MYSTIC RIVER - 11:20, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:00
2 ELF - 10:10, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 RUGRATS GO WILD - 11:10, 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:00
5 GOOD BOY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6 CABIN FEVER - 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

**Metro East** 682-8193/99 682-8280
Marcos hway

1 LOONEY TUNES
2 RUGRATS GO WILD
3 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
4 GOOD BOY
5 CABIN FEVER
6 MYSTIC RIVER
7 ELF
8 JEEPERS CREEPERS

**Novaliches** 935-3229 / 31

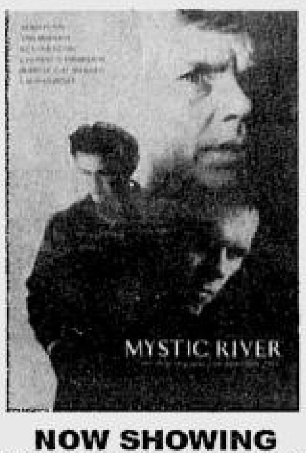
1 RUGRATS GO WILD
2 MYSTIC RIVER
3 GOOD BOY
4 CABIN FEVER
5 THE GRUDGE
6 JEEPERS CREEPERS
7 SCARY MOVIE 3
8 INTERNET QUEEN

| Malabon<br>C4 Tinajeros<br>288-0985/2575 | | Cainta<br>Ortigas Extension<br>240-4661 |
|---|---|---|
| INTERNET QUEEN | 1 | MYSTIC RIVER |
| ALIPIN | 2 | INTOLERABLE CRUELTY |
| CABIN FEVER | 3 | ALIPIN |
| JEEPERS CREEPERS | 4 | CABIN FEVER |

| Sta. Rosa<br>Laguna<br>(049)837-0907 | | Lipa, Batangas<br>Old National Highway Mataas na Lupa<br>(043)757-3664/312-5870 |
|---|---|---|
| OUT OF TIME | 1 | OUT OF TIME |
| BABAE SA BREAKWATER | 2 | FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS |
| STAR RUNNER | 3 | BABAE SA BREAKWATER |
| THE WISHER | 4 | STAR RUNNER |
| INTOLERABLE CRUELTY | 5 | INNER SENSES |

| Star Mills<br>San Fernando Pampanga<br>(045)875-1927 (045)961-5770 | | Imus<br>(046)471-8168 / 875-5858 |
|---|---|---|
| SCARY MOVIE 3 | 1 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| BABAE SA BREAKWATER | 2 | RUGRATS GO WILD |
| OUT OF TIME | 3 | ALIPIN |
| INTOLERABLE CRUELTY | 4 | CABIN FEVER |
| COLD CREEK MANOR | 5 | ELF |
| JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 | 6 | STAR RUNNER |

| Bacolod<br>(034)441-0458/59 | | Iloilo<br>(033)338-0070 to 78 |
|---|---|---|
| SCARY MOVIE 3 | 1 | SCARY MOVIE 3 |
| FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS | 2 | GIGLI |
| UPTOWN GIRLS | 3 | FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS |
| DARK BLUE | 4 | UPTOWN GIRLS |
| BABAE SA BREAKWATER | 5 | SEX SCANDAL |
| CHAVIT SINGSON STORY | 6 | THE WISHER |



NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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# Harrington leads by 1 in Challenge

**THOUSAND OAKS, California—Padraig Harrington made four birdies from off the green on the final six holes for a 5-under 67 that gave him a one-stroke lead Friday over Tiger Woods, Davis Love III and Chris DiMarco at the Target World Challenge.**

Harrington, the defending champion, figured a round like that would at least get him in reasonable position heading into the weekend.

Imagine his surprise when he tapped in for par on the 18th hole and saw his name atop the leaderboard at 3-under 141.

"There's a lot of ups and downs out there," Harrington said.

They weren't hard to find.

It was below freezing when Woods woke up. Not long after the sun thawed Sherwood Country Club, he proceeded to make a "snowman"—golf vernacular for an 8—on the par-5 second hole, in part because of a snap decision to drop in an unfavorable spot.

He recovered with six birdies the rest of the day, the last coming from 15 feet on the final hole for a 1-under 71.

"That was probably one of the uglier rounds I possibly could have played," Woods said. "I didn't kill anybody. I didn't kill myself. All in all, it was a good day."

Love never lost the lead until he went long on the par-3 12th for a double bogey, and short into the water on the par-3 15th and had to make a 15-footer for bogey. He wound up with a 72.

"I had a chance to run away, so that's a little disappointing," Love said.

DiMarco was extremely disappointed Thursday, especially after he played the final six holes in 5-over to mess up a good round. *AP*

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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CINEMA 1 MYSTIC RIVER - R13
(Movie Premiere) LOTR3
Dec. 19 / P450.00

CINEMA 2 ELF - GP
(Movie Premiere) LOTR3
Dec. 19 / P450.00

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**MUSIC MUSEUM**
Dec 19 (Movie Premiere) LORD OF THE RINGS 3 (8PM & 9PM)
YOU CAN PURCHASE IN ADVANCE - Reserve Seating - P450
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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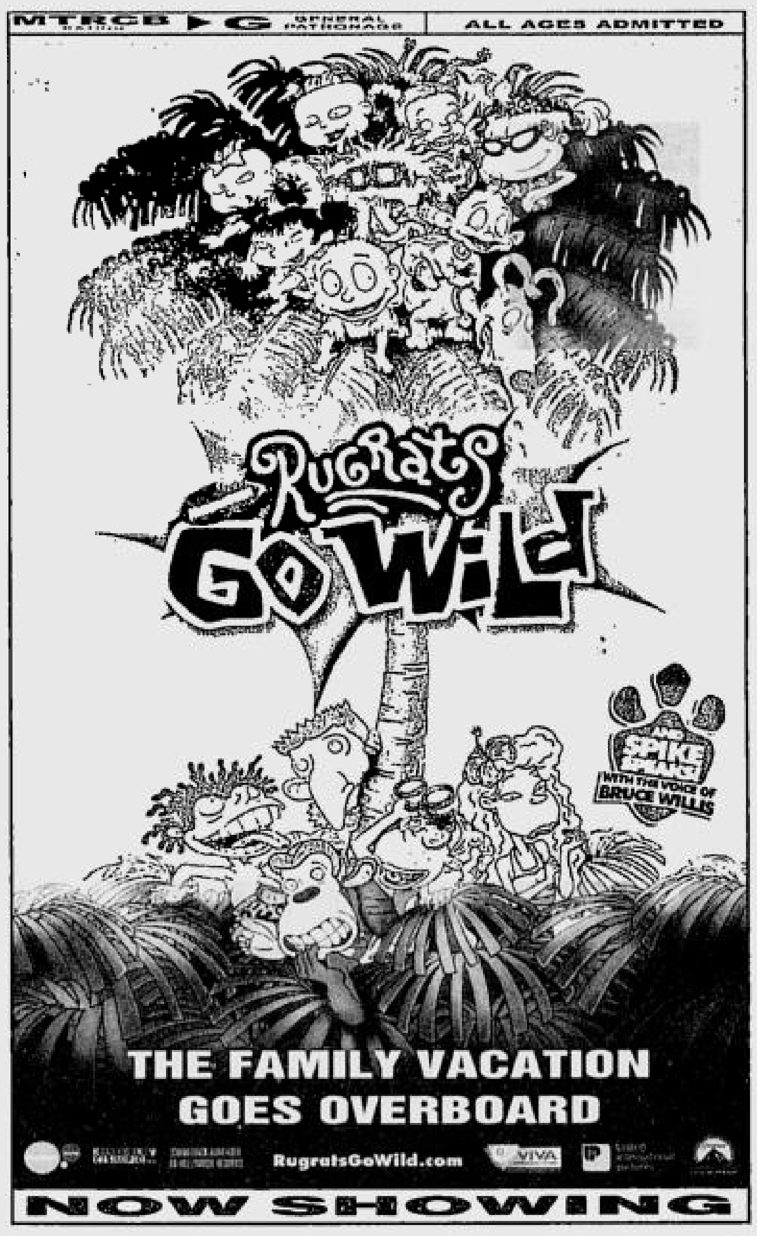
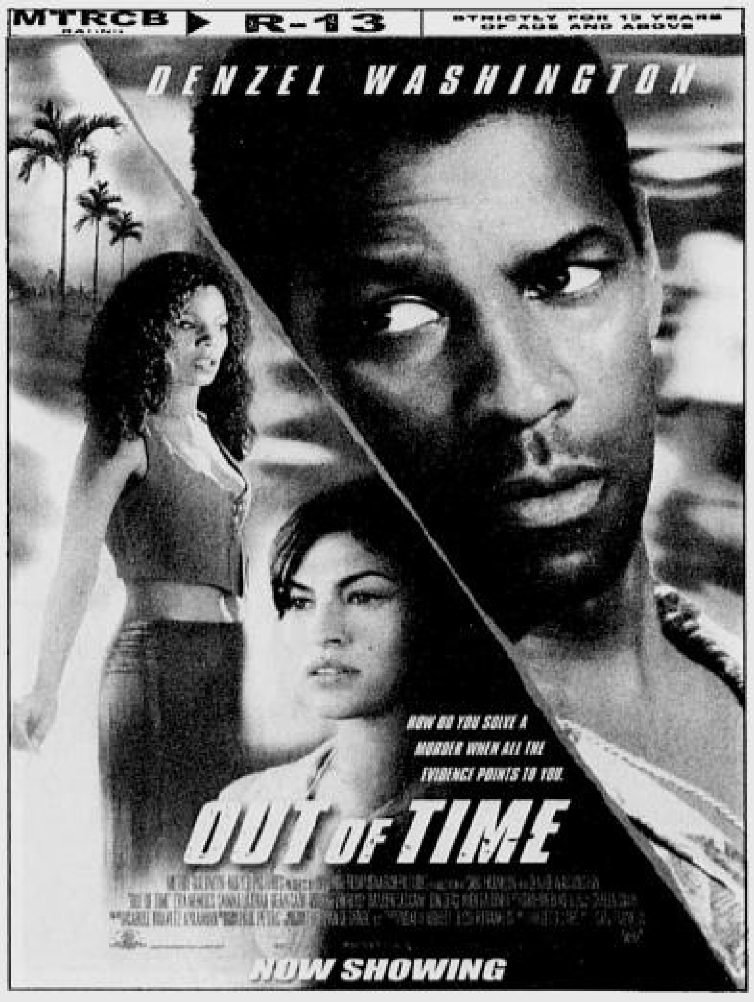

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
RUGRATS GO WILD
SPIKE
WITH THE VOICE OF BRUCE WILLIS
THE FAMILY VACATION GOES OVERBOARD
RugratsGoWild.com
VIVA
NOW SHOWING


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
DENZEL WASHINGTON
HOW DO YOU SOLVE A MURDER WHEN ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO YOU.
OUT OF TIME
NOW SHOWING

# 5 title fights shown today

SOLAR Sports will telecast today HBO Boxing's blockbuster year-end fight card, dubbed "Night of the Undisputed," featuring five world championship bouts from 1 p m. to 7:30 p.m.

The card is headlined by the undisputed middleweight championship of the world between IBF/WBC middleweight champion and WBA super champion Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins and three-time and current WBA middleweight champion William Joppy.

Today's lineup also includes WBA/WBC welterweight champion Ricardo "El Matador" Mayorga against IBF welterweight champion Cory Spinks for the undisputed world welterweight title and three-time champion Hasim Rahman against John Ruiz for the WBA interim heavyweight championship. In addition, WBO Jr. welterweight champion Zab "Super" Judah and WBA Super welterweight champion Alejandro "Terra" Garcia will defend their world titles against Jaime Rangel and Travis Simms, respectively.

Hopkins (42-2-1, 31 KOs) is making his record 18th defense of the middleweight crown. Joppy (34-2-1, 25 KOs), is a three-time middleweight champion.

Mayorga (25-3-1, 22 KOs) is an emerging boxing superstar.

The slugfest, to be held in Atlantic City's famed Boardwalk Hall in the USA, is a Don King production.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | ALIPIN |
| Ali 2 | ELF |
| Ali 3 | CABIN FEVER |
| Ali 4 | MYSTIC RIVER |
| Ali 5 | JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 |
| Ali 6 | RUGRATS |
| Ali 7 | GOODBOY |

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 10AM TO PM DAILY

ARANETA COLISEUM

| | |
|---|---|
| DEC 14 | PBA FINALS (if necessary) |
| DEC 15 | NCA 7-COCK DERBY |
| DEC 17 | NCA 7-COCK DERBY |
| DEC 23 | DISNEY ON ICE 8:00 PM |

Opens Dec. 23 DISNEY ON ICE "Beauty & The Beast"
BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY AND GET THE BEST SEATS!
Call TicketNet at 911-5555

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

**MANILA**

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

**QUEZON CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | ALIPIN |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

**NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| A | ANG BABAE SA BREAKWATER |
| B | AKO, IKAW, SIYA |
| C | |

**MANDALUYONG CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

**CAINTA RIZAL**

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | MR. SUAVE |
| CINEMA-2 | ALIPIN |
| CINEMA-3 | INTOLERABLE CRUELTY |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | OUT OF TIME |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | STAR RUNNER |
| CINEMA-6 | CHAVIT |
| CINEMA-7 | BABAE SA BREAKWATER |
| CINEMA-8 | 18 KARATS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | GOOD BOY |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | MYSTIC RIVER |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | RUGRATS GO WILD |
| CINEMA-12 | CABIN FEVER |
| CINEMA-14 | JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 |
| CINEMA-15 | ELF |

**LORES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

**NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN**

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | WRONG TURN |
| CINEMA-1 | CHAVIT |
| CINEMA-2 | LOONEY TUNES |
| CINEMA-4 | DARK BLUE |

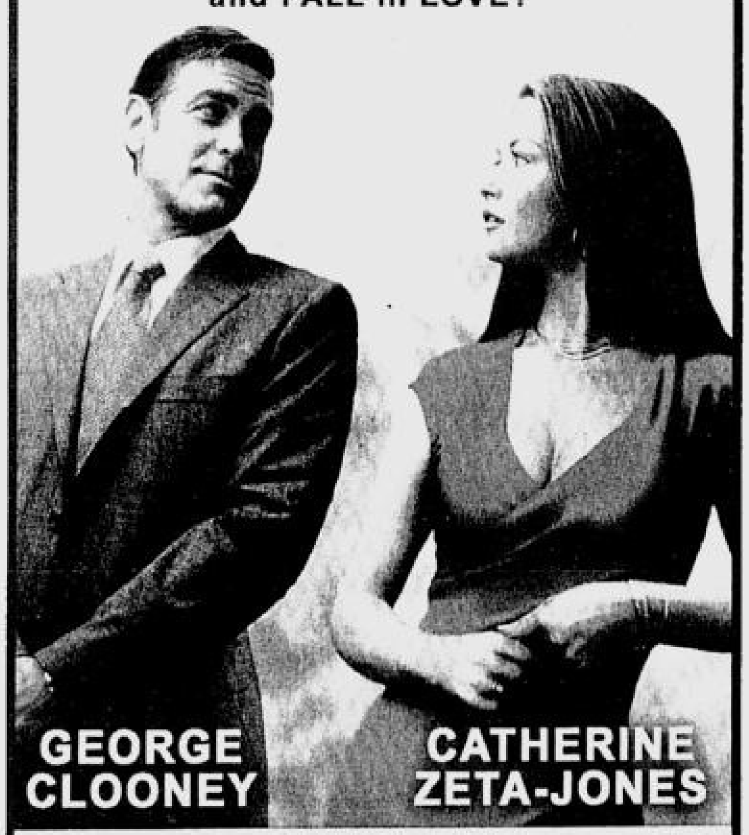
**UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

NOW SHOWING IN SELECTED THEATERS ONLY
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
NAKAKATAKOT
WARNING... IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU. As hot as today's headlines!
First the high fever, followed by shortness of breath, then dry cough, headache and muscular stiffness. Then a slow painful death awaits the victim as the demonic virus slowly devours your body tissues.

NO PLACE TO HIDE, NO PLACE TO RUN, EVIL STRIKES FROM WITHIN.
MAGIC 89.9
CABIN FEVER
CATCH IT!

VALENTINE IN DECEMBER
NOW SHOWING
MATINDING LABAN 'TO, SINO KAKAMPI MO?
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
In the BATTLE of the SEXES, who will be the FIRST to BLINK and FALL in LOVE?



INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
Engage the enemy.
MAGIC 89.9

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

SEAN PENN
TIM ROBBINS
KEVIN BACON
LAURENCE FISHBURNE
MARCIA GAY HARDEN
LAURA LINNEY
A FILM BY CLINT EASTWOOD
MYSTIC RIVER
we bury our sins, we wash them clean

WARNER BROS. PICTURES presents IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES AND NPV ENTERTAINMENT A MALPASO PRODUCTION SEAN PENN TIM ROBBINS KEVIN BACON LAURENCE FISHBURNE MARCIA GAY HARDEN LAURA LINNEY "MYSTIC RIVER" JOEL COX HENRY BUMSTEAD TOM STERN BRUCE BERMAN ROBERT LORENZ JUDIE G. HOYT CLINT EASTWOOD DENNIS LEHANE BRIAN HELGELAND CLINT EASTWOOD

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | G4 GLORIETTA 4 | GB1 GREENBELT 1 | GB3 GREENBELT 3 | ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ELF | 1 ELF | ArtFilm<br>1 BALZAC 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 | THX GUARANTEED SEATS<br>1 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 | THX 1 MYSTIC RIVER |
| 2 MYSTIC RIVER | 2 THE GRUDGE | 2 MYSTIC RIVER 12:35, 3:25, 6:15, 9:05 | THX GUARANTEED SEATS<br>2 MYSTIC RIVER 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:15 | 2 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY |
| 3 CABIN FEVER | THX GUARANTEED SEATS<br>3 MYSTIC RIVER 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30 | Onstage<br>REGINE VELASQUEZ<br>Dec. 19 & 20 - 9pm | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>3 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 | 3 ELF |
| 4 OUT OF TIME | 4 GOOD BOY | | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>4 ELF 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 | 4 GOOD BOY |
| | 5 RUGRATS GO WILD | | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>5 OUT OF TIME 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 | 5 RUGRATS GO WILD |
| | 6 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY | | | |
| | 7 JEEPERS CREEPERS 2 | | | |

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) JEEPERS CREEPERS
2 (SDDS) CABIN FEVER
3 (DTS) OUT OF TIME
4 GOLD (DTS ES) GOOD BOY
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) RUGRATS
6 GOLD (SDDS) MYSTIC RIVER
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
8 MR. SUAVE
9 ELF
10 THE GRUDGE-1

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

**Masagana CINEMA ① ② & ③**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ALIPIN
2 STAR RUNNER
3 MR. SUAVE

**starmall Movies**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 OUT OF TIME
2 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 CABIN FEVER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) MYSTIC RIVER
5 ALIPIN

**METROPOLIS star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 ALIPIN
2 CABIN FEVER
3 MYSTIC RIVER
4 INTERNET QUEEN
5 STAR RUNNER
6 OUT OF TIME

**M Star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 THE TRAIN
2 PILYA

**PREMIERE CINEMA** THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
MYSTIC RIVER

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
2 LOONEY TUNES

**FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC**
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 SUGAT SA PURI
2 ALIPIN NG ALIW
3
4

**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 ALIPIN
6 RUGRATS GO WILD
7 (DTS) MYSTIC RIVER
8 (SDDS) JEEPER CREEPERS
9 (DOLBY) GOOD BOY

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364-3/81
1 ALIPIN
2 MR. SUAVE
3 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
4 (SDDS) CABIN FIVER
5 STAR RUNNER
6 (DOLBY) INTERNET QUEEN
7 (DTS) JEEPER CREEPERS
8 BABAE SA BREAK WATER
9 AKO, IKAW, SIYA

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0082
1 ALIPIN
2 (SDDS) CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 (DTS) STAR RUNNER
4 (DOLBY) CABIN FIVER
5 MR. SUAVE

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795
1 ALIPIN
2 MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS) CABIN FIVER
4 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
5 (SDDS) STAR RUNNER

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

**Sampaquita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson ALIPIN
Lords ALIPIN
Jennet RESERVE

**MARKETPLACE** Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 GOOD BOY
2 ALIPIN
3 MR. SUAVE
4 RESERVE

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
2 GOOD BOY
3 RESERVE
4 CABIN FIVER
5 ALIPIN

**FRC Cinema**
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALIPIN
2 MEDALLION

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

**ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 MR. SUAVE
2 ALIPIN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) CABIN FEVER
4 (SDDS) MYSTIC RIVER
5 (DTS) JEEPERS CREEPERS-2
6 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
7 GOOD BOY

**FarmersPlaza CINEMAS**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 OUT OF TIME
2 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
3 (DTS) WISHER

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ELF
2 (DTS) STAR RUNNER
3 (DOLBY) OUT OF TIME
4 THE PHONE

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 STAR RUNNER
2 (DOLBY) INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
3 (DTS) OUT OF TIME
4 WISHER

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 WRONG TURN
2 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 (DOLBY) LOONEY TUNE
4

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 MY BOSS DAUGHTER
2 SEX SCANDAL
3 (DOLBY) WRONG TURN
4 (DTS) LOONEY TUNES

**Magic Star Cinema**
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY)
2 (DTS)
3

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE TRAIN
2 EVANGELENE KATORSE
3 (DTS) 18 KARAT
4 TUKSO NG PANAHON

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STAR RUNNER
2 THE PHONE
3 (DTS) OUT OF TIME
4 SEX SCANDAL
5 AKO, IKAW, SIYA

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 BABAE SA BREAK WATER
3

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 249.2558
1 STAR RUNNER
2 OUT OF TIME
3 MAPUPULANG LABI

**Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
2 ANG BABAE SA BREAK WATER
3 (DTS) LOONEY TUNES
4 (DOLBY) DARK BLUE

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (C48) RESERVE

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
2 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 OUT OF TIME
2 FIGHTING TEMPTATION
3 STAR RUNNER
4 BABAE SA BREAK WATER

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) COLD CREEK MANOR
2 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
3 (DTS ES) OUT OF TIME
4 ANG BABAE SA BREAK WATER

**Cine Nepo Mall**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 COLD CREEK MANOR
2 OUT OF TIME
3 (DOLBY) INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
4 (DTS) FIGHTING TEMPTATION

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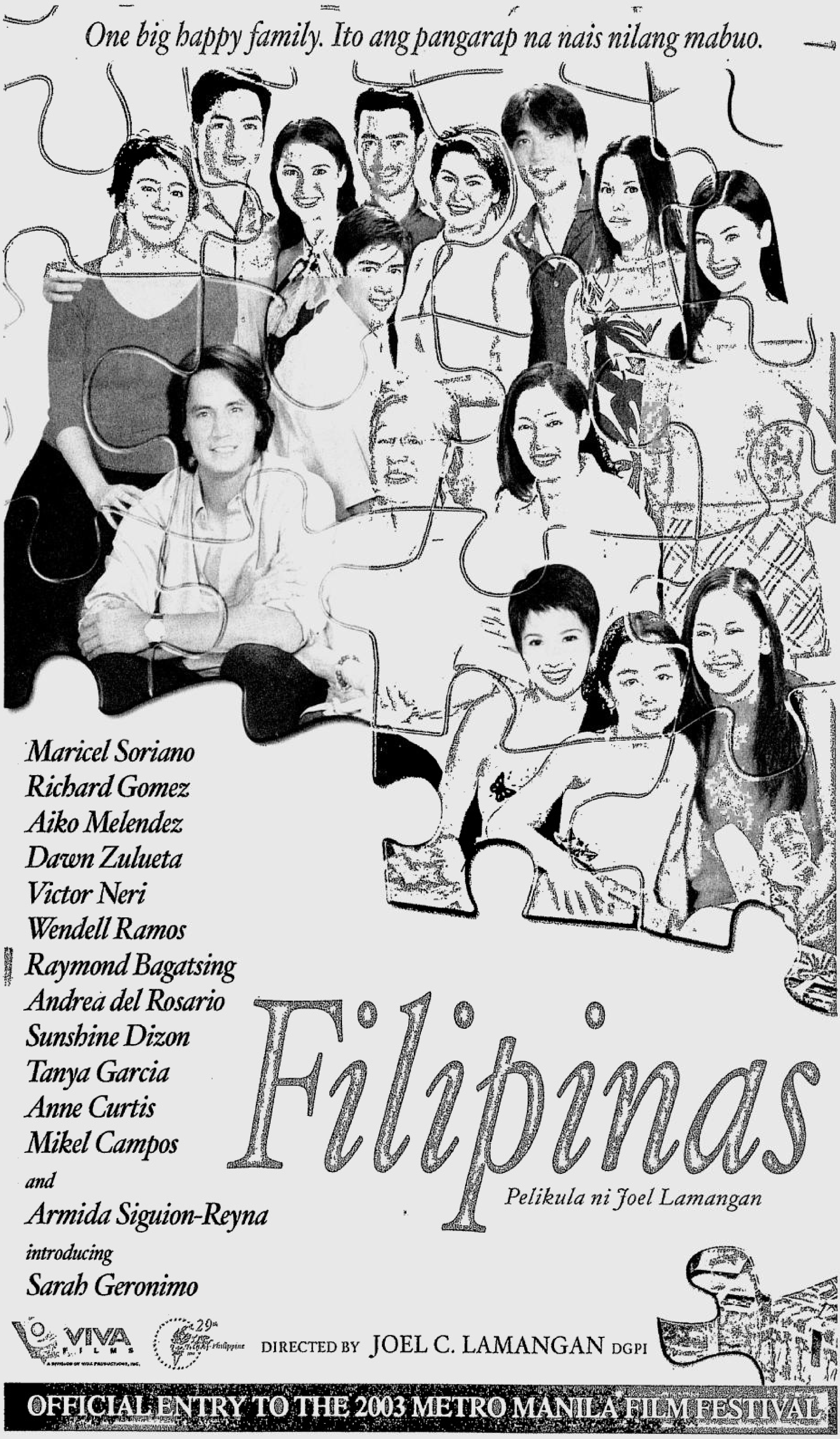
# Ozamiz gets semis berth

CEBU CITY—Compak/Shineway-Ozamiz City whipped Grachiya-Adamson, 82-64, Friday and grabbed the last semifinal seat in the Panasonic-National Basketball League Regional Cup tournament at the new Cebu City Coliseum here.

The tourney is sponsored by Panasonic Phils., Beer na Beer, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, BJ Star Logistics and Molten Basketball.

The win set up a knockout match between Ozamiz and Ilocos Sur at 4 p.m. today.


One big happy family. Ito ang pangarap na nais nilang mabuo.

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Richard Gomez
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Dawn Zulueta
Victor Neri
Wendell Ramos
Raymond Bagatsing
Andrea del Rosario
Sunshine Dizon
Tanya Garcia
Anne Curtis
Mikel Campos
and
Armida Siguion-Reyna
introducing
Sarah Geronimo

Filipinas
Pelikula ni Joel Lamangan

VIVA FILMS
DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN DGPI

OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2003 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

# 'Ang layo eh!'

WE may never see another mammoth crowd which jammed the Santa Ana Park recently when the great Wind Blown made his last three runs there.

**ONE WINNER**

*Edwin Villanueva*

Today, the *bayang karerista* doubts whether a full house can be achieved at the "*wa*-class" racetrack.

My Silip Boy made the rounds of the various off-track betting stations again and felt the pulse of the racing public. The question asked was: "*Pupunta ka ba doon para manood ng karera sa Linggo?*.

"*Ang layo eh. Sa* off-track *na lang kami*," said Dominic Borlongan, a veteran fan from Fairview, Quezon City.

Another QC *karera* buff, Hector Masinghay of Project 8, butted in with the same reason: "*Sobrang malayo. Yung ipapamasahe ko itatayo ko na lang baka lumago pa.*"

Over in Sampaloc, Manila, grizzled bettor Nonoy Samaco quipped: "*Walang pupunta sa 'min doon. Dito sa* Balic-Balic, *sa* OTB *lang kami. Pumupunta lang kami pag* Santa Ana *ang karera.*"

Meanwhile, bank teller Willy Mantic of Makati has this to say: "*Pag may ipinakitang* crowd *doon malamang hakot o kamag-anak lang yun ng mga hinete o iba pang taga-roon.*"

My Silip Boy said he, too, won't waste his time going there.

***

Fair and Square, Sun Dancer, Bulldozer and Wind Blown have done it before.

Now, Free Wind tries to emulate their feat as he guns for a back-to-back win in the Presidential Gold Cup.

But the road to victory may be rough. Free Wind hasn't shown the same razor-sharp form and was in fact relegated only to second-best behind the pre-race pick Material Maker in their previous duels.

The Dos Ranchos Joferos entry has also a mission when he aims to snare the Cup and that is to mirror the triumph of his sire, Strong Material.

But aside from the two, my Silip Boy has picked a couple of candidates which he said will be his *pansama* in the Take-All and they are Lyonnais and Red Star Rising.

"*Malamang panahon na ni* Lyonnais. *Si* Red Star Rising *naman baka makasilat*," he opined.

The *bayang karerista* said this year's PGC staging suddenly lost its appeal and luster because Wind Blown is not in the lineup.

Anyway, sit back, relax and enjoy watching today's races, from the safe confines of your home or at your favorite OTBS.

**SPORTS FLOORING** Thomas Hallberg, Technical Education manager of Bonakemi, demonstrates how to apply Bonakemi finishes to wooden floor. Bonakemi is the world's No. 1 choice for basketball courts, billiards halls, other sports or any commercial or home flooring. CAE Enterprises is the exclusive distributor of Bonakemi in the Philippines.

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DARATING NA !

# Presidential Gold Cup race today

**ALL eyes will be on West Bound, Material Maker and Free Wind when they head the field competing in today's 31st running of the Presidential Gold Cup, local racing's most prestigious race, at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.**

This year's PGC will also be the richest with a total pot of P2.875 million. The winner will receive a record P2 million.

Backed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, in cooperation with host Manila Jockey Club Inc., the Philippine Racing Commission and industrialist-horseman Don Antonio Floirendo Sr., the 2,000-meter championship race flags off as the sixth race in today's blue-ribbon race card.

"The annual running of the Presidential Gold Cup is a reaffirmation of the PCSO's commitment to elevate the standard of local horse racing and provide the incentive for the improvement of the local breed," said PCSO Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon.

Impressive winner of the first two legs of this year's Triple Crown Series, West Bound heads a classy field of 11 crack gallopers competing for local horse racing's most coveted cup.

Winner of seven races in 11 starts this year, and never been worse than second, the progeny of US-bred sire Hezagonwest out of Fair Maiden, will be attempting to become the first grandson of a previous Gold Cup winner to score a victory in the event. His maternal grandsire, Fair and Square, won back-to-back editions of the PGC in 1981 and 1982, and has also sired two previous cup champions, Sun Dancer (1989 and 1990) and Fair Start (1993).

Expected to crowd West Bound are defending champion Free Wind and recent back-to-back stakes winner Material Maker. Also in the lineup is 2002 runner-up Lyonnais, 2001 Triple Crown champion Silver Story, Success Story, Perfect Storm, Diktador, High Octane, Mica's Magic and Red Star Rising.

Lending support to the running of the PCSO Presidential Gold Cup is the running of two P500,000 stakes races—The Chairman Jaime Dilag Cup and Commissioner's Cup and the Philracom Gold Cup Hopeful Stakes and five Philracom Invitational races.

## RACING TIPS

**AT SLLP BY MR. 999**

Race 1--1. Earl Gray 2. Playing With Fire 3. Reporter
Race 2--1. Western Dancer 2. Gigi's Gold 3. Don't Tell Me 4. Rama 5. Bullish Dream/Candon's Pride
Race 3--1. South Sea 2. Throttle 3. Royal Lantana/Coromell
Race 4--1. Magical Jude 2. Ground Wave 3. Zarsuela 4. Conglomerate 5. Princess Naida 6. Now
Race 5--1. All Class 2. Msagic Bullet
Race 6--1. Lyonnais 2. Material Maker 3. West Bound 4. Free Wind 5. Red Star Rising
Race 7--1. I Love This Game 2. Super Dave 3. Real Tough 4. Doña Gelay 5. Golden Lance
Race 8--1. Real Slew/Neat Laurel 2. Buena Sera
Race 9--1. Loose Cannon 2. Mika's Special 3. Overture/El Montruo 4. Tenacity 5. Captain Stone
Race 10--1. War Hero 2. Dandansoy 3. Kayang Kaya 4. Khan Caloo 5. Serena
Race 11--1. Aminin 2. Courage Heart 3. Tervalac 4. Love Song .
Race 12--1. Iverson 2. Queen Matawe 3. Free Entrance 4. Flying Machine 5. Wings to Fly
Race 13--1. Meant to Be 2. Bonjour Baby 3. Tout Est Grace
Race 14--1. Golden Cat 2. Western Legend 3. Jazz in Time 4. Hezabellagio
Race 15--1. Twin Brother 2. Coolmore 3. Man Power 4. Silver Lining 5. Lance

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ELF
GP
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

RUGRATS GO WILD
GP
11:00, 2:40, 4:25, 6:10, 7:55, 9:40

INTOLERABLE CRUELTY
PG13
12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

CABIN FEVER
R18
1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00

MYSTIC RIVER
R13
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

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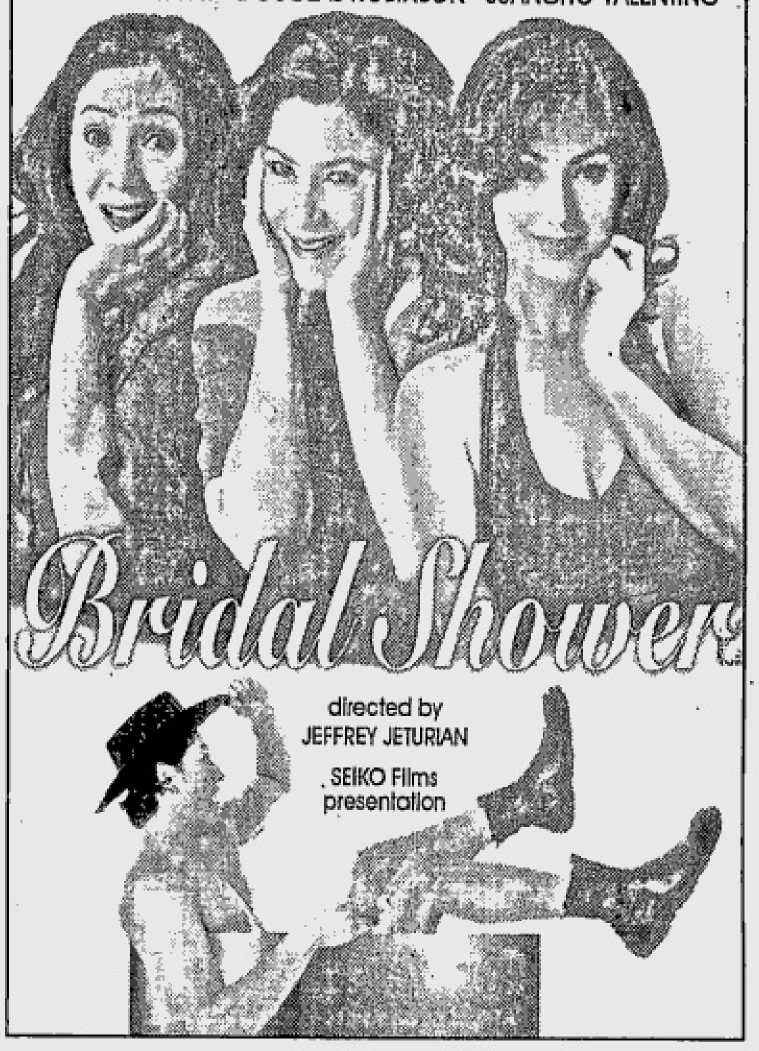
BOOTS ANSON ROA
GINA PAREÑO
ALFRED VARGAS DOUGLAS ROBINSON JUANCHO VALENTINO



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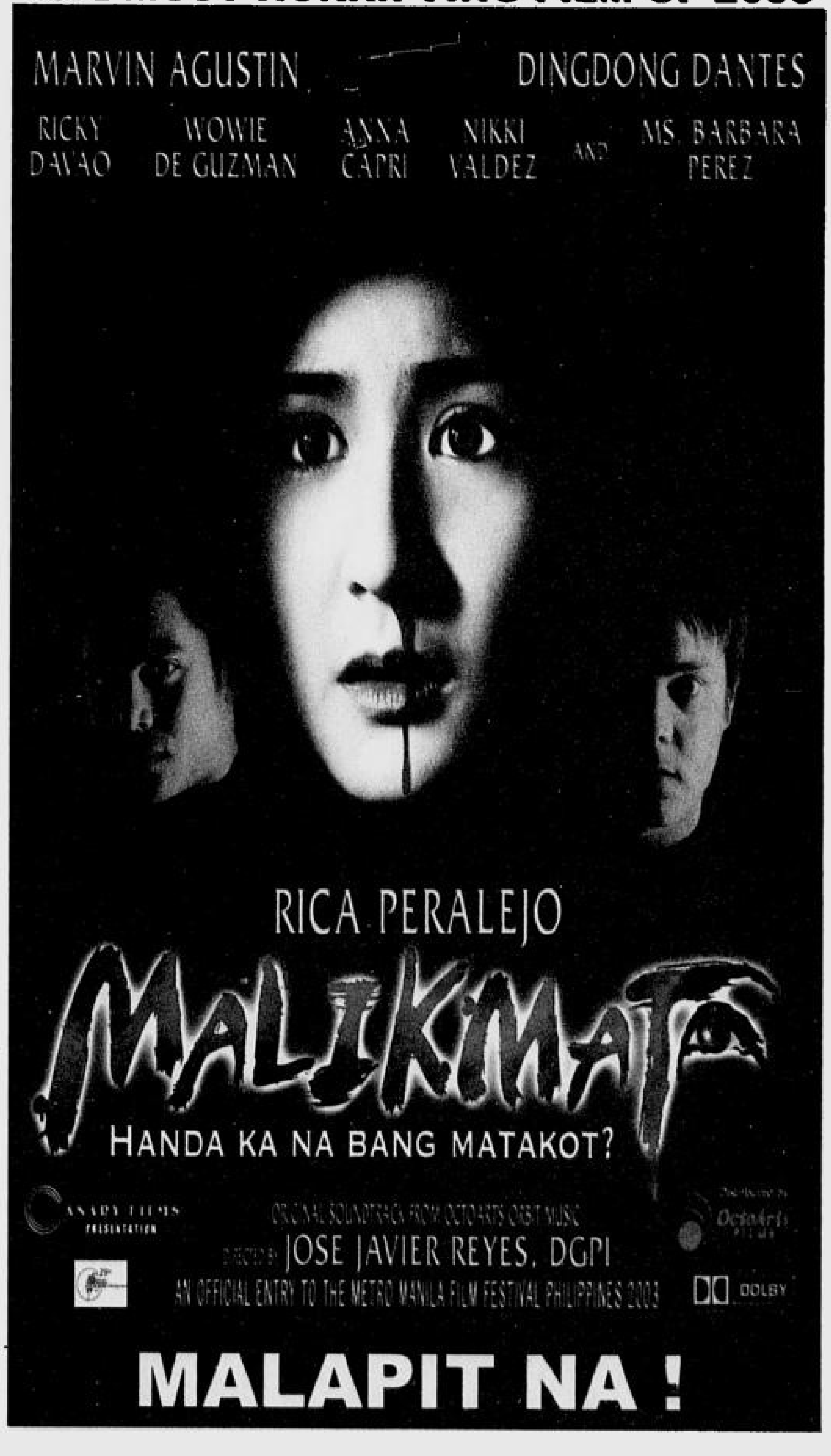

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RICKY DAVAO WOWIE DE GUZMAN ANNA CAPRI NIKKI VALDEZ AND MS. BARBARA PEREZ
RICA PERALEJO
MALIKMATA
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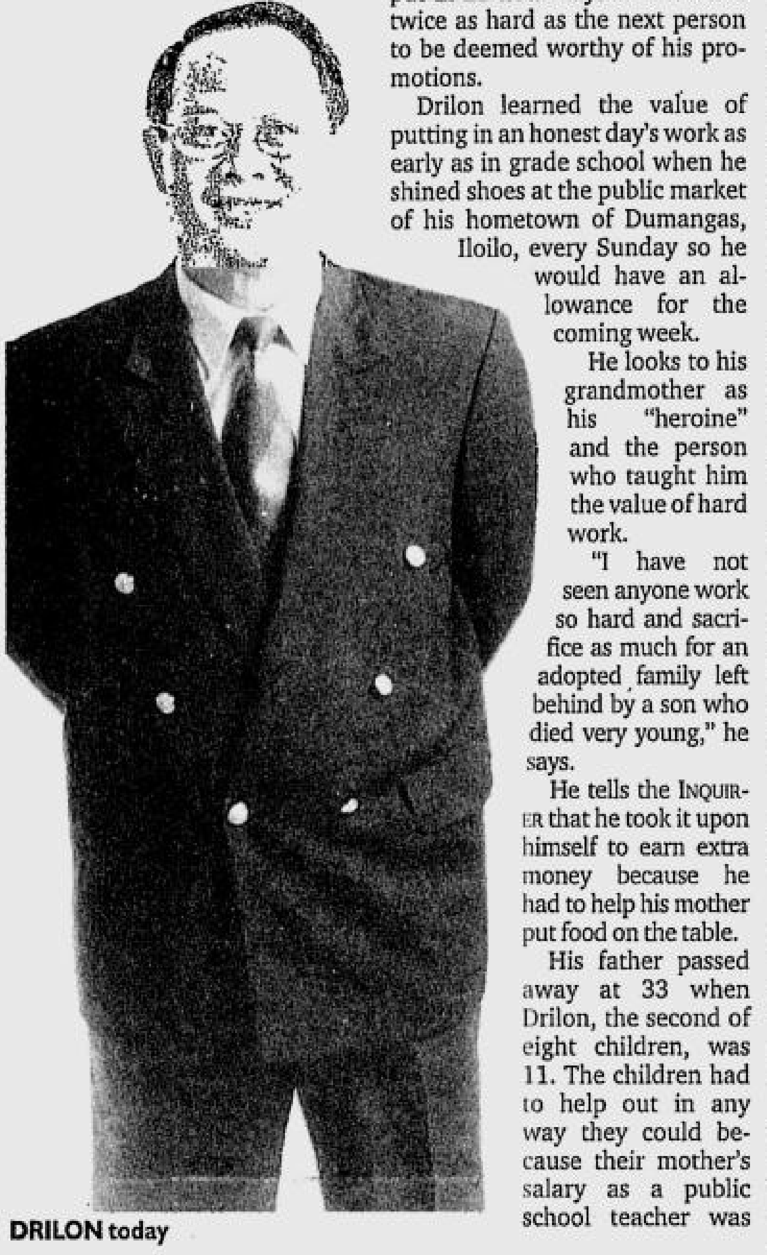
SEE CENTERFOLD, THIS SECTION

# He learned from people who cared

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT took Ortigas and Co. Ltd. Partnership chief operating officer Rex C. Drilon II 17 years to get his college degree but the lack of a diploma did not prevent him from becoming president of one of the country's biggest transportation companies at 32 and having direct reports who had masteral and doctoral degrees.


DRILON today

Drilon was able to do the seemingly impossible because he put in 25-hour days and worked twice as hard as the next person to be deemed worthy of his promotions.

## FIRST JOB

Drilon learned the value of putting in an honest day's work as early as in grade school when he shined shoes at the public market of his hometown of Dumangas, Iloilo, every Sunday so he would have an allowance for the coming week.

He looks to his grandmother as his "heroine" and the person who taught him the value of hard work.

"I have not seen anyone work so hard and sacrifice as much for an adopted family left behind by a son who died very young," he says.

He tells the INQUIRER that he took it upon himself to earn extra money because he had to help his mother put food on the table.

His father passed away at 33 when Drilon, the second of eight children, was 11. The children had to help out in any way they could because their mother's salary as a public school teacher was not enough to make ends meet.

### Shoe-shine boy

"I earned about 25 centavos every time I shined shoes. I was very good at it. Up to now I still find time to shine my shoes every now and then, although most of the time, somebody else does it for me," he says.

Despite the extra work, Drilon remained a very good student, graduating valedictorian from grade school and high school in Dumangas. He entered the University of the Philippines (Diliman) on a scholarship but quit in his last semester of BS Geology to work and help his younger siblings earn their college degrees.

"I helped my younger siblings finish college and it was only when the last one graduated that I went back to school to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from the University of the East," he says.

Then he worked as a book salesman and sold Collier's Encyclopedias.

"While I was good at it, there were days when sales would dry up. Since I was living alone for a while, there were days when I would eat only one decent meal a day. I had friends who would bail me out during those days," Drilon says.

His first regular job was as a credit investigator with Manilabank, owned by the Puyat family, when he was 20.

He impressed the owner enough that after three years, he was transferred to a sister company and, at 23, became general manager of a rock aggregate company and vice president of another company.

He stayed with the Puyat group for seven years, had a short stint with BF Homes and, in 1974, joined a group of distressed companies run by a creditors' syndicate, one of which was transport firm Philtranco (formerly Pantranco South).

### Turnaround artist

That started his career as a "turnaround artist."

Philtranco then was a struggling bus operation in Bicol and Quezon on the brink of bankruptcy. Drilon and his team were able to turn its operations around.

By the time he left in 1988 to go to the United States with his family, the company had annual revenues 15 times what it was when he first became Philtranco's president in 1978. Philtranco also expanded its operations to include Eastern Visayas and northeastern Mindanao.

He came back to the Philippines in 1994 to take on the presidency of Philippine Fuji Xerox and help in the 1995 campaign of now Senate President Franklin Drilon, his father's cousin.

"The Xerox job was a tough but fulfilling one. I joined the company in the middle of a strike. In the subsequent CBA negotiations two years later, my luck held—the union and management agreed on the new terms without going through a strike," he says.

"When I left, I had recommended that the Filipino owners sell their shares to the Japanese principals if they were not prepared to put in more capital to catch up with the market leaders. Several years after my departure, the Japanese consolidated its ownership of the company," he adds.

From there he moved on to become general manager of the Jardine Sugar Group and in 1998, joined Ayala Land Inc. and was responsible for projects in Visayas and Mindanao.

"Cebu was a great assignment but I was living away from my family. After almost four years of living a bachelor's life in Cebu, I decided to go back to Manila to rejoin my family. But not before I luckily found an outstanding Cebuano executive to replace me in Cebu. I hear he is doing very well," he says.

Drilon describes his current job with the Ortigas group as one of his most challenging turnaround assignments because the company is an ultra-conservative, low profile operation.

"In 2002, the owners decided to reorganize and professionalize. I was lucky to have a unanimous mandate from the major shareholder groups and they literally gave me a "blank check" to reengineer, retrofit and reinvent the company. I also had the good fortune to recruit a top-caliber management team and their efforts are now bearing fruit," he says.

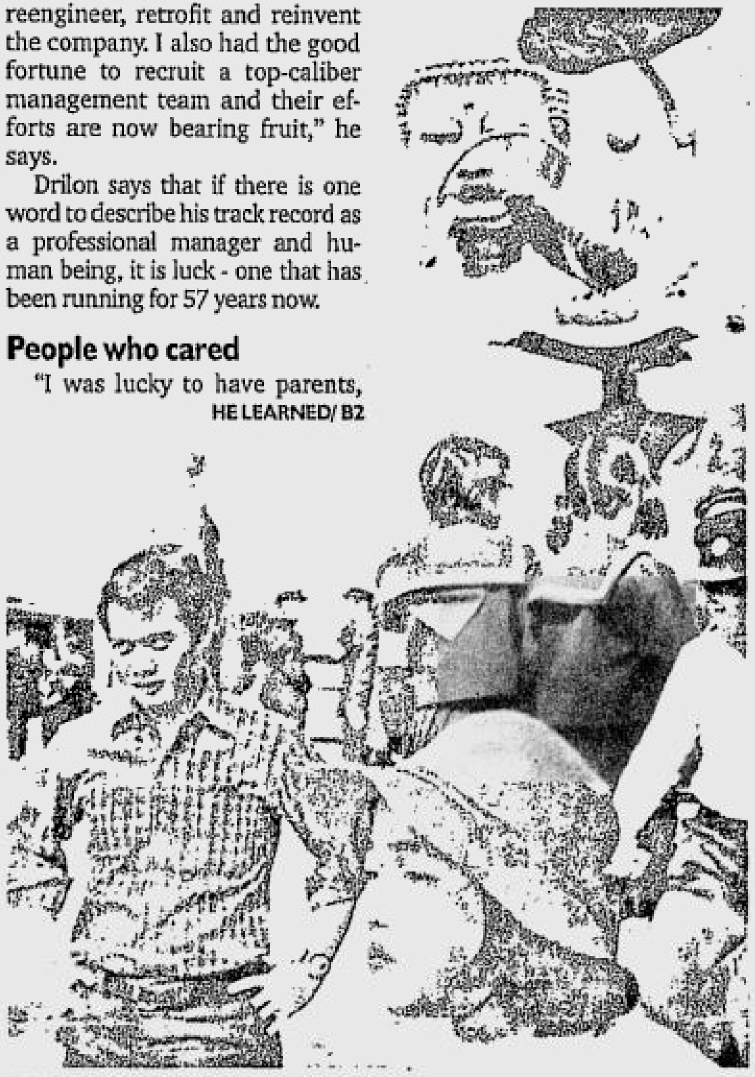
Drilon says that if there is one word to describe his track record as a professional manager and human being, it is luck - one that has been running for 57 years now.

### People who cared

"I was lucky to have parents,

HE LEARNED/ B2

DRILON during his shoe-shining days


DRILON in one of his first trips to Japan

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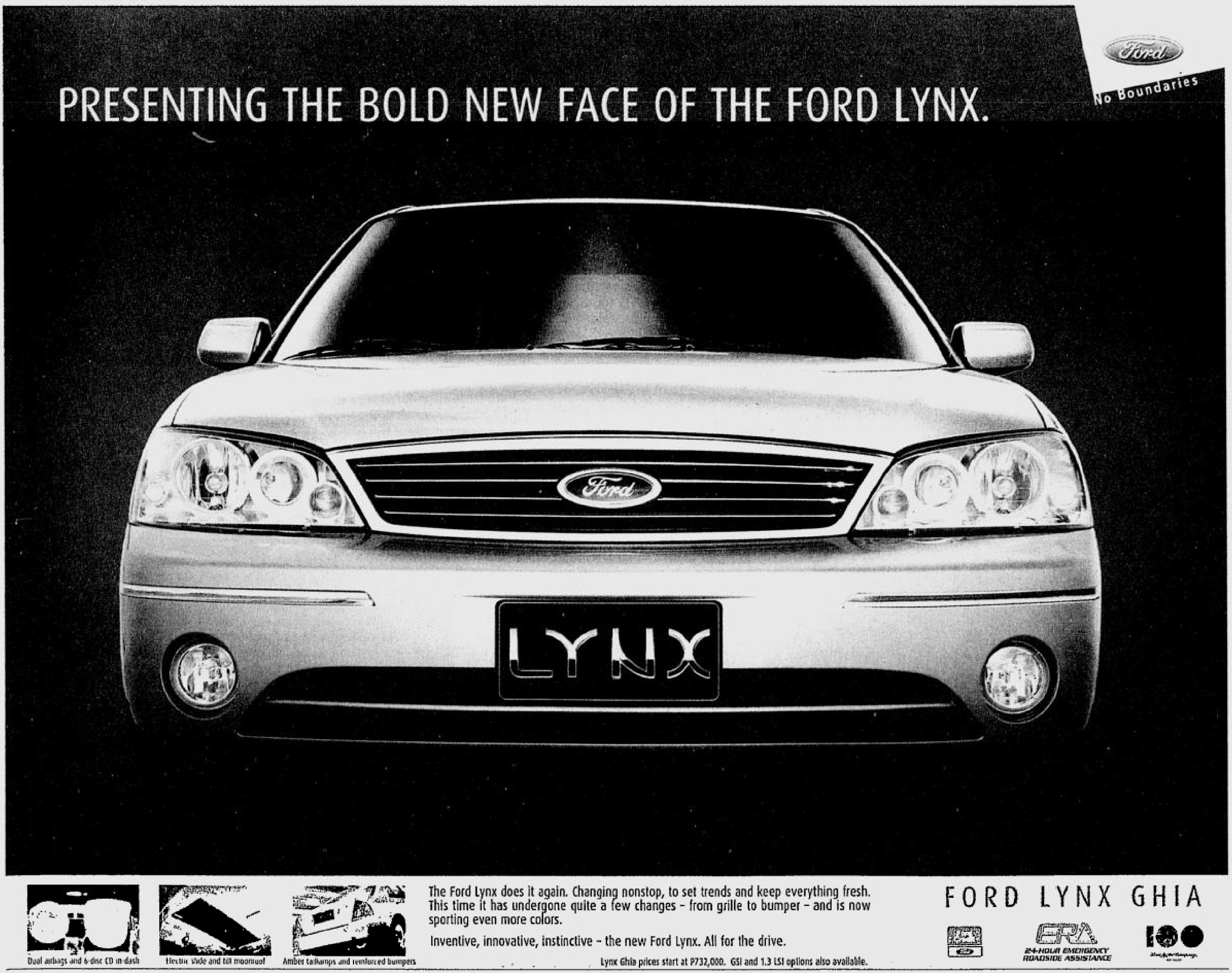

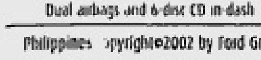
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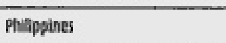
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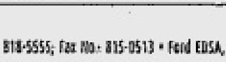
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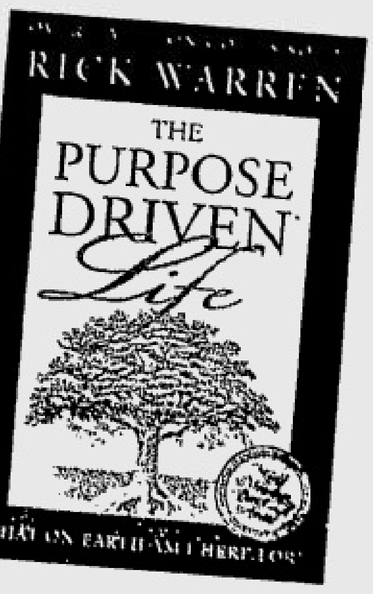
PAUL and Grace Gupana

# Book puts God in business

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**



THE BOOK, "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren, made such an impact on Grace Gupana that she tailor-fit her entire company's vision to it.

Grace owns ABS Herbs, maker of the food supplement made from seven bitter herbs. She is creating what she calls a "purpose driven company."

Together with her husband Paul, Grace redefined their company's purpose and refocused its vision in order to be seen from the viewpoint of God.

A self-help book, "The Purpose Driven Life," however, describes itself as being "more than a book; it is a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey that will enable you to discover the answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for?"

Grace believes in the book that she has given away 4,000 copies to the country's political and business leaders, hoping they would read it and change their priorities from one of self-interest to genuine concern for the people. She is set to give away 2,000 more copies this month.

"Operating in a country plagued by multiple crises—in leadership, the economy, peace and order—the ABS Herbs Co. has resorted to putting its own house in order in a somewhat uncommon approach to face the serious challenges," Grace says in a paper on the firm's new direction.

Because of the book, Grace adopted the following changes:

- Worked on the company's products to be manufactured in "cGMP" (current good manufacturing standards of the Bureau of Food and Drug).
- Reinforced top management with experts from local and global companies, partnering with a respectable multinational distributor.
- Implemented new operating systems and procedures, and upgraded employment policies, benefits and training.

So far, Grace says, the impact on the business has been greater efficiency in the factory and increased awareness of expenses.

"Before there was a disregard for costs but now everyone is more accountable. There is improved honesty. There is now a fresh wind of change and harmony," Grace says.

"Real transformation of the company would start from the individual staff or manager. Real change would start from the heart of the individual. A change of heart would mean a change of mind and consequently action, " states ABS new mission statement.

ABS' management and staff go through a regular interactive orientation twice a week which aims to help lead them to the realization that God is and can be a real partner in business.

Grace says the impact of such sessions has resulted in a quarrelsome marketing officer becoming a peacemaker among his friends; an irritable secretary learning to be forgiving of "gossips," and a sales manager dropping his plan to pursue a master's degree in order to gain more knowledge about God.

Grace says the firm's "Faith goal for 2004 is to reach 1,000 companies, churches and groups through people empowerment by sharing 'The Purpose Driven Life.'"

# Volunteers make a difference among kids who cannot read

**By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ELEMENTARY pupils who have difficulty in reading, learning to read in Filipino and English.

PHOTO BY RAY ZAMBRANO

DAGUPAN CITY—Dressed in their Sunday best, some of which were borrowed, 58 children from this city recently received their "diplomas" that certified they were readers.

No, these children did not attend kindergarten where basic reading is taught. They were selected from Grades I to VI classes in eight elementary schools that, for some reason or another, had not mastered reading skills and comprehension.

Happily, these STARs (students at risk or non-readers) have advanced in their reading skills after completing the five-Saturday Caltex Mentor Program (CMP), a flagship program of Caltex Drive Team Volunteers in cooperation with the Liwawa ed Asinan Foundation (Leaf), the Dagupan Bangus Jaycees, the Kiwanis Bangus Club and the Lady Bulldogs of Calasiao.

Why are these graders non-readers?

"It's mostly an economic problem," Cherry Pinga-Ramos, Caltex corporate communications officer, says. "Most of these children belong to poor families with many children that the parents can hardly devote time to teach each child."

But aren't the children supposed to learn reading in school?

"Yes, but most of the time they come to school with empty stomachs so they can hardly concentrate on their studies," Pinga-Ramos says.

Public school teachers give these children passing grades, thus enabling them to enroll in the next grade level out of "pity."

It was also learned that overworked teachers "give up" and "pass the headache" to the next grade level teacher. As a result, some children graduate from the elementary grades and enter high school as non-readers.

But because of a Department of Education mandate, non-readers cannot be given passing marks and must stay in the grade level they are supposed to be.

"This is why the Caltex Mentor Program was born. We want to help the public schools in mentoring the children," says Pinga-Ramos.

Public school teachers, who handle classes of 60 pupils, are not at all insulted but are even grateful that mentoring programs by private companies are entering the picture.

Parents, who have given up on their children's ability to read, are also oriented on the program on the first day.

Pinga-Ramos says the children were given pre and post tests on reading. She says the program has a success rate of 89 percent. The children are also given grooming lessons such as taking a bath daily and brushing their teeth.

Since some of the beneficiaries are from different barangays, they are given fare money, aside from snacks and lunches.

The children who did not pass the post-test on reading were allowed to graduate, too, but would be given more lessons by the volunteers of the Leaf Foundation.

Comprising the 40 volunteer mentors, who teach six hours for five Saturdays, were volunteer Caltex employees and business partners, their friends and relatives. A jeepney driver and a sidecar driver also volunteered to become tutors. The youngest mentor was Andre Pantig, 14, a high school student and a son of a Caltex executive.

After tutoring a 10-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, the young Pantig says "it was not hard doing it and even felt good" having helped children just about his age to learn basic reading.

Caltex retailer Karen Esguerra, president of the Dagupan Bangus Jaycees, says it could be the one-on-one tutoring "full of love and attention" that inspires the children to learn.

Criselda Legaspi Pantig, Andre's mother, was at first reluctant to teach young Jonathan Masaway, who "had this peculiar smell. But I told myself this young boy was my responsibility, so I continued teaching him and asked him to take a bath before attending the following session. He did, but he still had the smell. When I asked him where he took a bath, he said in the river. So I told him to bath with clean water."

But on the recognition day, Jonathan was well groomed. He wore pressed pants and polo ("borrowed," Pantig says) and his gelled-hair was neatly combed.

What did the volunteers, otherwise ensconced in their comfort zones, derive from the program?

"It's the quite an achievement on my part, learning patience and how to deal with different moods of children," Pantig says.

The 40 mentors became emotionally attached to their wards and gave them graduation gifts, aside from the gifts from Caltex.

The Dagupan "class" was the fifth batch of the Caltex Mentor Program and was the first outside of Metro Manila. The CMP fact sheet says the program started in November last year. It aims to bring volunteerism to grassroots level.

The program is envisioned to include mentoring of other basic subjects like science and mathematics. But for its pilot project, it seeks to address at last two of the country's major concerns: the alarming rate of non-readers in elementary schools and the need to balance the extreme teacher-student ratio per classroom, primarily in helping overloaded educators handle the special remedial classes.

The program is unique because Caltex has gone beyond giving the usual financial sponsorship so common with private companies. It also offers "sweat and time equity," requiring volunteers to undergo a one-day training and tutoring in public schools.

Pinga-Ramos says "Volunteerism is deeply ingrained in the Caltex culture. We believe in being part of the solution. It is the mission of the Caltex Drive Team Volunteers not to engage with the community but to embrace it. We have envisioned the program to expand nationwide."

# Construction giant builds its first village in Cavite

PRESIDENT of DMCI Holdings Isidro Consunji explains the development to Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi.

DMCI Homes, the housing division of construction giant D.M. Consunji Inc., recently launched Villa Alegre in Carmona, it's first project in Cavite.

Villa Alegre is near the Manila Southwoods Golf Course and Country Club and the San Lorenzo Leisure Park in Cavite. It is near schools, malls, grocery stores and theme parks in Alabang, Muntinlupa City and nearby Laguna.

What's noticeable is the perimeter wall enclosing the area. Villa Alegre is a gated community with 24-hour security. High-end leisure and health facilities include adult and kiddie pool, playground, basketball court, jogging path, elegantly designed multi-level clubhouse with function rooms, and well-landscaped areas.

It is a is a low-density development comprising of only 200 houses. Its units have floor areas ranging from 48 to 157 square meters. The standard unit features two bedrooms, two toilet and bath, a maids room, provision for service utility area, a car port and a foyer or garden. Bigger units are also available.

Lots go for a minimum of P8,603.41 monthly (based on a P1 million list price, 20 years to pay, 10 percent downpayment ). For inquiries, call 888-3333.

A trusted name in the Philippine construction industry, DMCI prides itself on an impressive track record that built the nation. Incorporated in 1954, DMCI paved a pioneering legacy in the construction of the country's landmarks. Among such landmarks include the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Westin Philippine plaza, Makati Shangri-La and Rockwell Center, to name a few. Today, DMCI adds to its list of notable achievements a venture that will help Filipino families build their dreams.

# He learned from people who cared

From page B1

DRILON not only excelled in academics but in extra-curricular activities as well. Here he joins other Boy Scouts during a jamboree

DRILON finishing a 32-kilometer run as Philtranco president

grandparents and relatives who looked out for me. I was lucky to have married a woman who stuck with me through thick and thin and who sacrificed a career to be a full-time mother to three wonderful children. I was lucky to have met many role models and selfless mentors in my professional life who helped mold me into what I am now. And I was lucky to have friends who reached out to me in my times of need," he says.

## Great influences

He considers his father to be one of the greatest influences in his life, even if he was only around for a short while.

"My father instilled in me a passion for excellence. I remember him coaching me for a declamation contest. He asked me to repeat my piece over and over until I could pronounce 'people' properly. He would not let me go until I got it right. I was already crying with frustration because I could not get 'people' right. I must have tried a hundred times. But I learned the virtue of excellence. I, of course, won that contest," he says.

His mother, on the other hand, taught him the softer things in life—to sing, smell the flowers and appreciate nice things.

His uncle, former Agriculture Undersecretary Joe Drilon Jr., taught him generosity. It was he who financed his college education, while a grand-uncle and namesake Prof. Rex Drilon (who later became the first Filipino president of the Central Philippine University in Iloilo), provided his board and lodging.

"He also taught me the value of a sense of duty. We were assigned chores and he would go ballistic if we did not carry them out. The sense of duty has stuck in my mind up to this very hour. I also heard the word 'integrity' for the first time from this great man. Walk the talk, he would tell us," he says.

"And in all of these, because of my less than ideal beginnings and the odds that I had to overcome to survive, life has taught me to have a high tolerance for pain," he adds.

Drilon also considers himself blessed to have worked for people who brought him up the corporate ladder. The first was Vicente Puyat whom he describes as a visionary. "He was my hero. I started to dream big dreams because of him."

Baby Lopa was another visionary, he says. "He dreamed of a self-contained economy in his group of companies. Again, martial law got in the way and he lost the dream. He was a marvel with people, especially the rank and file. Even after he lost his dream, he kept his dignity. He taught me compassion. And when the political winds turned in 1986, he never took advantage of the situation, even when his sister-in-law became President of the country," he says.

Anacleto del Rosario, on the other hand, taught him management skills. He deepened his love for teaching and management education.

Another powerful influence was former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao. "I became president of Philtranco, a reasonably large company, at 32. When that good fortune came, I enjoyed the perks to the hilt. Jess reminded me that there are more important things in life than the thrills of a professional success and their rewards. He brought back God to my consciousness and the value of family. He taught me how to find Him in the middle of the world. Life is a continuing struggle for sanity. Jess kept me sane," he says.

Drilon has achieved most of what he has set out to do, but he continues to dream, this time to give back to the community and to the society that have been so good to him and his family.

"After I accomplish my assignment and meet my goals in Ortigas and Co., I would like to teach, write books and yes, perhaps serve in government. I want to continue and intensify my involvement in the reform for good government (both public and corporate governance) and responsible citizenship. I want to help in the restoration of Iloilo City as the Queen City of the South," he says.

Considering his lucky streak, it would come as no surprise if Drilon would fulfill these dreams, too.

"I am just lucky, but maybe one of these days the law of averages will catch up with me," he says in jest.

# Those who eat pan de sal, please rise tall

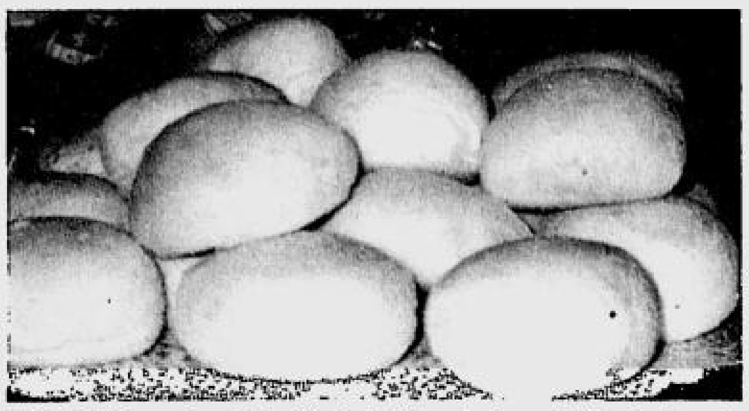
CUENCA, Batangas—If the governor would invite all the Batangueño bakers to a party for just one night, Manileños won't have pan de sal on their breakfast tables the next day.

This is what Lucito Chavez, the vice president of the Philippine Federation of Bakers Association Inc., says of the Batangueños in pan de sal-baking.

Chavez estimates that in Manila, over 90 percent of the bakers are from Batangas, particularly from the town of Cuenca.

"Pan de sal-making in the '60s and '70s is the heaven and glory of Cuencano pan de sal bakers," Chavez says. "Even the mayor of Cuenca used to be a pan de sal maker himself."

Lucito Chavez of the Philippine Federation of Bakers Association Inc.



THE PINOY pan de sal is fortified with Vitamin A, uses iodized salt, and is 100 percent bromate-free. PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

## Globalization

Although Chavez' Tinapayan has been expanding, he admits that pan de sal-making needs a lot of improvement, especially now that the country has been flooded with bakery chains and imported bread.

"Tinapayan has been successful because we were able to innovate, which is a good defense mechanism against globalization," Chavez discloses. "But the Filipino baker now faces the pain of globalization and, sad to say, most of the small bakeries have decided to stop operations. That's why the federation and the Department of Trade and Industry have launched the 'Pinoy Pandesal.'"

Since the '90s, the federation, with its founding chair Bartolome Hermosura, has been lecturing to bakers all over the country and telling them about the Pinoy Pandesal.

When translated from Spanish, "pan de sal" means "bread of salt."

For centuries, the Filipino breakfast table won't be complete without a cup of brewed Barako (Liberica) coffee and warm pan de sal.

Even a bakery can't be considered a real bakery if it doesn't sell pan de sal in the morning.

## Bad publicity

While the bakery business was stable until the late '90s, the issue of the bromated pan de sal came up. Former health secretary now Sen. Juan Flavier called it as the carcinogenic pan de sal. This started the collapse of the industry.

The situation worsened with the onset of bakery chains and imported bread.

The influx of imported breakfast cereals, the standard breakfast in western countries, aggravated the situation.

"The issue of bromated pan de sal in the late '90s was not the fault of the Filipino baker. Bromate was present in all the flour that the government allowed to come into the country," Chavez says. "When that issue hit the bakers all over the Philippines, followed by imported bread, the pan de sal industry collapsed."

Potassium bromate is a carcinogenic additive that was used as structure builder and strengthener for the flour. Since flour loses some enzymes during the milling process, the additive was used to handle the flour with ease.

"But there are also some additives that are utilized to replace bromate that are not carcinogenic such as natural enzymes and ascorbic acid. When the Food and Drug Administration banned bromated flour in the country, non-bromate flour came in. By that time, most Filipino bakeries had already collapsed.

"The Batangueño bakers were not ready for the sudden fall of pan de sal and weren't aware of the natural additives that could replace bromate. After the bromate controversy and the collapse of the pan de sal industry, the market was flooded with imported bread.

"The other problem is that the bakers were not aware of the modern techniques of baking," Chavez says.

## No help

What pains the Batangueño baker, Chavez says, is that during the collapse of the pan de sal industry, no one from the provincial government of Batangas stood up for them.

"I admire the provincial government officials of Cavite because during the red tide issue that threatened their shellfish products, they went to the markets and in front of the media and the public, they ate the fresh shellfishes just to prove to the people that those shellfishes are not poisonous," Chavez says. "But here in Batangas, the coffee industry died in Lipa City, the place where the Philippine coffee industry was born, but no one among our provincial government officials lifted a finger to prevent that."

"Now the bakery industry is already a dying industry and again, the same thing, nobody in the provincial government extended a helping hand," Chavez laments.

Chavez says it was the bakers' federation who stood up against the detractors of the pan de sal industry.

## Hope

It was only late last year, when DTI Secretary Mar Roxas met with the bakers' federation, that they saw hope coming.

"We told him about our dying industry and our plans to solve it. The result of our meetings was the Pinoy Pandesal," Chavez says, "Pinoy Pandesal is a bromate-free bun fortified with Vitamin A and uses iodized salt."

The new Pinoy pan de sal is baked using a scientific standard formulated only for baking it.

"Sadly, up to now, the recipe of the pan de sal is not even standardized. You can still buy sweet pan de sal from the bakery, which is not good for most Filipinos," Chavez notes. "Let's face it, 80 percent of Filipinos are diabetic."

The Pinoy pan de sal has lower sugar content.

The Philippine Federation of Bakers requested San Miguel Corp. last year to make the bromate-free flour, a blended flour formulated purposely for pan de sal-making. It's now called Harina de Pan de sal.

## Bakers' training

Aside from managing Tinapayan, Chavez also lectures not only to his own bakers but also to small bakers and bakery owners all over the country.

"We teach Filipino bakers to label, put expiration dates, scientific way of baking, accounting procedures and right management. We teach the bakery owners too," Chavez says. "We teach them the right procedure to bake and to manage a bakery for them to be able to survive."

Chavez tells bakers to update themselves with the technology.

The bakers' federation and the DTI launched the Pinoy Pandesal in Cuenca, and for the first time in Batangas history, a bakers' training and seminar was held in the town where majority of the country's bakers were born.

## Saving the industry

"Ten years ago, Manila had 3,300 bakers, 800 of them are Batangueños from Cuenca. After the issue of the bromated pan de sal, the number has slowly diminished," Chavez says.

To create awareness of the plight of the pan de sal, the bakers' federation, and the local government, started the Tinapay Festival last May 15. In this year's festival, the Cuenca Bakers' Federation gave out 120,000 pieces of pan de sal for free.

For Chavez and the entire bakers' federation, the fate of the pan de sal will not follow the long neglected path of the dying coffee industry.

"The Barako coffee may have vanished in its birthplace, but we will never let the pan de sal fall off the Filipino's breakfast table," Chavez stresses. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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# Bulgarian buffalo nourish kids; provide income to local folk

**By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

URDANETA CITY—From the idyllic, pastoral community of Tulong comes the fresh carabao milk that nourishes some 400 Grade 1 pupils of seven villages in this city.

The fresh carabao milk is produced by members of the Tulong Multi-Purpose Cooperative (TMPC), which is engaged in dairy production through the assistance of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

Maximo Gandia Sr., TMPC chair, says the milk production project was started in 1996 when the PCC gave the members of the cooperative 40 female Bulgarian buffalo.

The buffalo distributed to TMPC members were already pregnant and the farmers only needed to feed the animals and wait a few days to milk them.

TMPC members were asked to "pay back" the PCC by giving the agency the first male offspring of each buffalo. The cooperative member could either keep the young buffalo or give them to other cooperative members.

Yet like all community projects, the TMPC's milk production project in Urdaneta, the PCC's first experimental area, suffered from "terrible birth pains," says Gloria de la Cruz, a PCC technician.

De la Cruz says many members gave up their buffalo because of the initial hardships of rearing them. At least five buffalo died—two from giving birth and three from diseases.

Some farmers also lamented that the buffalo were "useless" because these could not be used to till their farmlands.

Worse, no one was buying the milk that they produced.

"We even fed the extra milk to the dogs and pigs," Gandia says.

Fed up, some members surrendered their buffalo to the cooperative. Since these cannot be returned to the PCC anymore, the cooperative's officers, like Gandia, had to take the "unwanted" buffalo.

"This is how some officers ended up owning more than one buffalo," he says. He says accepting the unwanted buffalo seemed to be a "sacrifice" for TMPC officers at that time.

Things started to look bright in 1999 when the Urdaneta Vendors Association bought their fresh milk and offered these in the public market.

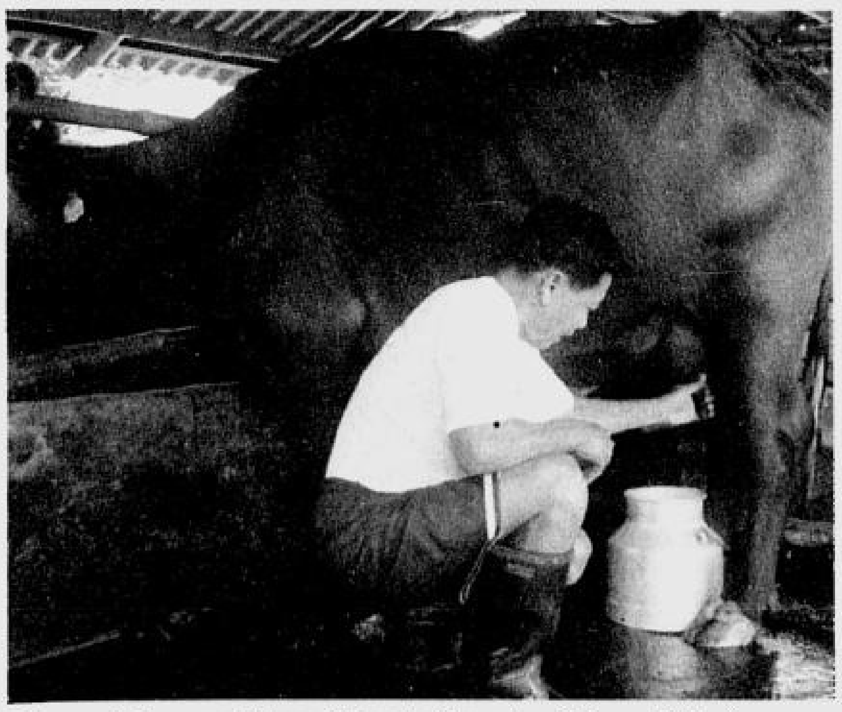
Yet, this did not last long since the residents of Urdaneta City, like most Filipinos, are not milk drinkers and stopped buying the produce.

Later, some Indian residents in this city and nearby areas learned of the TMPC's dairy production and started to buy milk from the cooperative. The Indians has since become the cooperative's regular customers.

The TMPC also entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Education and the National Dairy Authority to supply fresh milk for the DepEd's milk feeding program for elementary students.

Daily, the TMPC produces an average of 50 liters of milk, 30 liters of which are set aside for the milk feeding program.

"We can hardly meet the demand now," Gandia says.



A farmer in Barangay Tulong, Urdaneta City, gets milk from a Bulgarian Murrah. PHOTO BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO

Since children easily get tired of the milk's taste, the cooperative formulated a pasteurized chocolate-flavored milk by mixing fresh carabao milk with cocoa powder, sugar, nonfat milk solids, stabilizer and water.

Rosita Pantallana, who pasteurizes the milk and prepares the "chocomilk," says each 200-milliliter pack of the chocomilk is sold at P8. The cooperative supplies 400 packs daily to the DepEd.

Gandia says the TMPC sells the fresh milk at P40 a liter to their Indian buyers, their cooperative's *suki* (loyal customers).

He says they could not give up their Indian buyers because "it was they who started giving us business."

Consumers are assured that the fresh milk coming from Barangay Tulong is safe for consumption.

The Department of Agriculture, with assistance from Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr., is always on hand to protect the animals from diseases through vaccination and deworming programs and providing them with the best animal care.

"They regularly undergo laboratory tests to ensure that they are healthy and free from any diseases," De la Cruz says.

The animals are fed with napier grass that grows in abundance in the village. They are also given rice hay, sugar cane and "homemade" feeds made of darak, copra, dicalcium phosphate and salt.

The farmers milk the animals manually, spending about 10 minutes every morning for the purpose. An animal can produce between five and seven liters of milk each day, giving the farmer about P200 daily. By 8 a.m., the milk must be delivered to the cooperative center, ready for pasteurizing and selling.

When the animals give birth, the milk they produce for the first seven days is exclusively for their young.

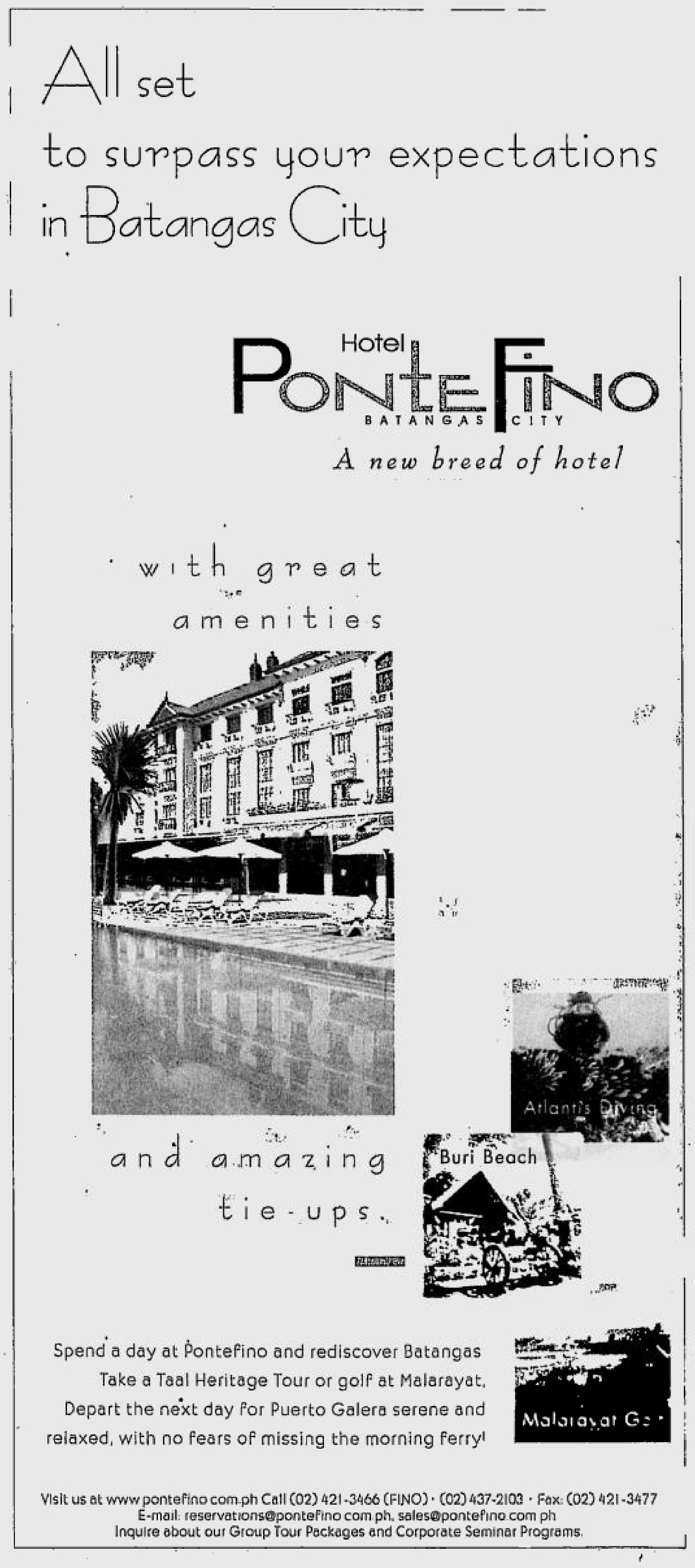
Gandia says with the dairy production business doing very well, the attitude of their members who gave up their buffalo have changed.

He says everyone now wants to own a buffalo.

The cooperative owns 67 buffalo, 40 of which have already given birth. The remaining 27 buffalo have yet to give birth.

Only 10 of the original 40 buffalo have not been "repaid" to the PCC, Gandia says. He says the cooperative is planning to put up a store along the Urdaneta highway to sell fresh milk.

Mayor Perez says the most gratifying part of the milk production business is being able to ensure that the city's children are healthy through locally produced milk.



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# People, Events & Products

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*Editor* **Aries Espinosa**

## Traditional, modern practice combined for holistic treatment

WITH the advancements in medicine, most of the prevailing chronic and acute forms of diseases are treated and controlled. However, certain medical conditions cannot be totally cured by conventional treatment alone, requiring a more hoilistic form of treatment.

One of the alternative forms of medicine that has proven to be beneficial to people all over the world is acupuncture. Acupuncture and acupressure are the most well-known forms of traditional Chinese medicine. Initially used for pain relief, acupuncture has gone beyond relieving people of their pain. It has also been proven to be beneficial in the treatment of various diseases.

Developed thousand of years ago by the Chinese, acupuncture is done based on the theory that energy in the body flows through channels located between the surface of the body and the internal organs. According to Chinese medicine, there are 14 channels and more than 360 pressure points all over the body. When these channels are blocked, a person experiences pain and develops diseases. By inserting a needle at one end of the channel or applying pressure to certain pressure points, healthy energy is believed to be restored.

According to Western medicine, acupuncture works through the release of the hormones endorphins and opiods – the body's natural pain killers. Modern science also asserts that perhaps the insertion of needles also activates the immune system, and helps release various hormones beneficial to the whole body.

At SynergyMed Center, traditional Eastern therapies, such as acupuncture and acupressure, are combined with Western medical practice. Local doctors work hand in hand with doctors from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine whose expertise rely on Oriental therapies. While the doctors from the Philippines who are trained in Western medicine works primarily on the basis of clinical and laboratory findings, their Chinese counterparts rely on acupuncture, acupressure and herbal medication which have been practiced for more than 4,000 years.

Working in a complementary way, traditional Chinese treatments help reduce the intake of medicine, thereby reducing unwanted side-effects and improving the over-all health status of the patient.

SynergyMed Center is located at the 23/f Discovery Suites, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For further inquiries, call 631 2611.

**BPI CARD PROMO**

BPI Card recently held a pre-Christmas promotion offering perpetual annual fees for Unibankers, BPI Insurance companies and BPI Quarter Century club members who are principal cardholders. In addition, every new, link and extension card approved earns a raffle chance to win these prizes: P10,000 (one winner), P5,000 (two winners) and P1,000 (10 winners). The event took place at BPI Card Center, BPI Family Bank head office and BPI head office in Makati City. In photo during the event's ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left): BPI senior vice presidents Teresita tan and Jesus Razon; BPI senior executive vice president and BPI Family Bank president Aurelio Montinola III, and BPI Card manager Arnold Seniano.

## From the fridge to the trash can?

IF YOU think stuffing fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator is enough to ensure that produce will stay fresh and not spoil fast think again.

While we want to stretch the value of our pesos, our less-than-smart refrigerator practices almost assure that fruits and vegetables end up in the garbage. In Filipino households, uneaten food gets thrown in the trash because of several reasons: buying discounted but damaged produce; purchasing goods that are not really needed; not having enough space in the fridge to store goods properly so they go bad after a very short period; keeping to many produce of the same kind that they remain unused beyond their shelf life; or the special needs of individual groups were not considered during storage.

But busy homemakers should take heart because now, there's a fresh approach to storign fruits, vegetables and meats. Glad FreshProtect II bags are made with breakthrough plastic film designed to keep food fresh, longer.

Even after the produce has been harvested or picked, it continues to "breathe" and some vegetables like cauliflower and broccoli respire at even higher rates. Glad FreshProtect technology "understands" the special needs of high-respiring produce like strawberries, broccoli and cauliflower. What the revolutionary Glad FreshProtect II does is it controls the atmosphere inside the bag allowing the "good" gasses in and the "bad" gasses out. The result? No premature browning and wilting, sliminess and bad smell in your crisper.

We can't afford to be wasteful now more than ever so choose kitchen products that are reliable, versatile and cost-efficient. Organize your fridge space smartly and use Glad bags with FreshProtect II so there will be no more wasted food, time, energy and money. Glad bags with FreshProtect II plastic are available in storage or freezer bags at supermarkets nationwide.

**TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS WORK**

Photo shows Unilever Volunteers doing their part in planting seedlings in the middle of the forest of La Mesa Watershed.

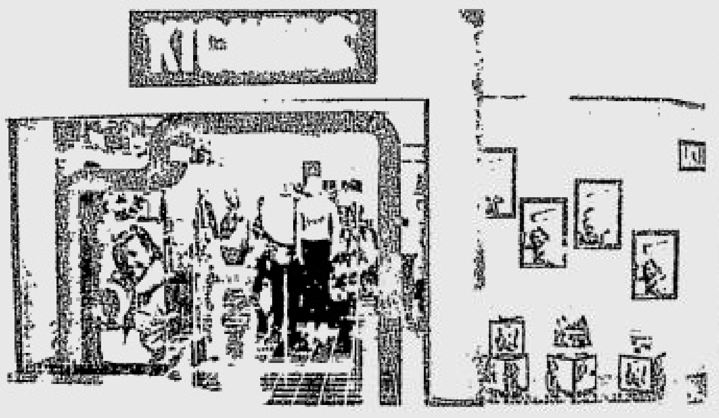
**BACOLOD IS LABUYO COUNTRY**

Bacolod City officially becomes Labuyo country during the unveiling of the significant marker at the Bacolod airport.

## ProductFILES

### Kickers opens new stores

LIVING up to the brand's proposition of Social Energy, Kickers reopens its newest stores in the upper ground floor, Bldg. A of SM Megamall and basement, main building of SM North Edsa. Both stores, together with the other new stores in Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, and Ayala Cebu, now carries the excitement and distinction the brand is famous for worldwide. Together with the new look and design, watch out as well for better product offerings this holiday season that you will indeed "Wear Them Out". For more info on Kickers and its products, dial 242-0711 or visit any of the Kickers stores or outlets in leading department stores and specialty stores nationwide.



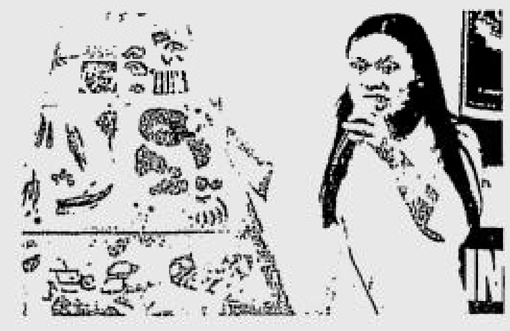
### Nissin Cup Noodles Christmas Collectibles

NISSIN Cup Noodles gives us enough good reason to renew the age old habit of collecting things this Christmas. With the Nissin Cup Noodles Christmas CollectiCUPS, you don't only get to collect them, you learn to reuse them in several creative ways. You can make cups as Christmas decors or make Christmas garlands and trees out of it. Not only that, it lets you collect six variants of Nissin Cup Noodles complete with free items such as stickers and tattoos that come in 60 exciting designs. And for budget-conscious noodle lovers, you can now enjoy the Mini Chicken and Mini Beef variants at a more affordable price this Christmas season. With the same goodness and completeness found in every Nissin Cup Noodles, you only pay P9.50 SRP per cup.

**SAN MIG STRONG ICE WHAPAKKS THE METROPOLIS**

Last Nov. 7, San Mig Strong Ice Whapakked the Metropolis with a series of high-energy, high-alcohol parties that blasted off simultaneously. San Mig Strong Ice is the newest beer brand in the market with the smoothest brew and the hardest hit. It's ice-filtered so it goes down your throat cool and smooth, and its 6.3 percent alcohol kicks you hard. Everyone got a taste of San Mig Strong Ice in all its ice-filtered glory. The Icy smooth parties froze everyone in Gweilo's on Carlos Palanca St., Nu-Vo at Greenbelt 2, Pier 1 in Tomas Morato, Blue Onion in Eastwood, Libis, V-Bar at Glorietta and Café Havana in Malate. You won't experience anything cooler than this. So watch out for the next time San Mig Strong Ice kicks your head and chills your senses.

**DATU PUTI SPONSORS NFP**



Datu Puti Soy Sauce, the leading soy sauce brand in the market today, sponsored the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines (NFP), a series of classes on healthy lifestyle. The classes aim to disseminate information on healthy lifestyle and nutritious food as well as the importance of phytonutrients like Isoflavones found in soybeans, which may help prevent the risk of cancer. The classes were held in various barangays in Quezon City and Manila. Datu Puti Soy Sauce is rich in cancer-fighting isoflavones. Shown in photo is Ma. Christina Mendoza, nutritionist of Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines (NFP), giving the classes in Barangay San Antonio, Tondo, Manila.

## Clips

### A Christmas Dream at SOS Children's Village

THE SOS Children's Villages Philippines invites everyone to its annual Christmas Cantata entitled "A Christmas Dream." Come and see the children perform on Dec. 14, 6 p.m. at the SOS Children's Village Manila, Mindanao Drive Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City and enjoy their very own rendition of the Little Drummer Boy, Christmas Carols and Zarzuella. SOS Children's Villages Philippines provides long-term residential care and education to orphaned, abandoned and neglected children or children in extreme difficult circumstances. It implements by way of health and medical facilities, mother and child social centers, livelihood skills and vocational training centers, counseling and day care centers, schools and extension programs for community development. For more details, please contact Minette Rimando of the National Coordination Office at 807-0764 or 850-9654.

### Lifan presents Shaolin exhibition

CAPTURE contemporary and pragmatic technique of martial arts, sword warfare, acrobatic kung fu and hard action karate. The Shaolin Master invades SM Supermalls from Nov. 10 to Dec 18. The Extreme combat encounter is presented by Lifan Motorcycle. The versatility of Shaolin art is similar to the versatility of Lifan Extreme Motorcycles, appropriate motorcycle design suited for every individual's necessity. Brought to you exclusively by Mitsukoshi Motors Philippines Inc 222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave, Quezon City. Tel. nos. 414-6766 up to 68.

### Huggies 'Happy Baby Hunt' promo

HUGGIES Diapers gives babies a chance to be a star through its "Happy Baby Hunt" promo. Through its partnership with Kodak and GMA 7, mommies can show off pictures of their happy babies on TV through SIS' new segment. To participate, mommies can send their babies' cutest pictures with a brief description of why they believe their little darlings are happy babies and proof of purchase of any Huggies products at regional GMA-7 stations, selected Kodak Express Network stores, and SM Supermarkets nationwide. The babies have to be between 0 to 2 years old upon the end of the promotion on Dec. 14 to join. The chosen baby will win P500,000, a Kodak digital camera and will be featured by Summit Publishing. For more information, see posters and print ads and stay tuned to SIS on GMA-7.

### 'Star Christmas Carol Chorale Competition'

METROPOLIS Star is inviting all amateur chorale groups to join the 'Star Christmas Carol Chorale Competition'. Contest is open to all amateur chorale groups enrolled in public or private high schools within Muntinlupa. Cash prizes and gift items await lucky winners. Finals is on Dec. 14 at the 4th level trade hall of Metropolis Star in Alabang. For inquiries, call 543-4002 and 543-3997.

**ZYBERN PUB & RESTAURANT OPENS**

Zybern Pub and Restaurant, the latest in-place around the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex/M Adriatico/Vito Cruz area, recently opened with a formal blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Doing the honors are Asian taekwondo star Manel Sy-Ycasas (second from left) and Cong. Ricky Sandoval (third from left), flanked by Bernie Atienza, Zybern owner and Rene Zafra, franchise consultant and contractor of the restaurant.

**MEGACALL HANDS OVER DONATION**

Matsuharu Hayashi, president of Megacall Inc and CMM Inc is turning over their initial corporate donation for the 1% Campaign to Dr. Angel Villafuerte and Carmen Zubiaga, who both represented the 1% Campaign NGO Alliance. Megacall will give monthly donation to the campaign as their way of "giving back to the community". Megacall is the distributor of MEGA call cards and text cards, linking OFWs in Japan with relatives in the Philippines at cheaper rates. For details about the campaign, call 240-1733 / 240-4456/ 248-2517.

**MOISSANITE JEWELLERY STORE BRANCH OPENING**

Elegant, brilliant and beautiful people graced the launch of Moissanite Philippines' newest exclusive Moissanite Jewellery shop at the third floor of SM Megamall building A last Nov. 11. The ribbon cutting ceremony was led by the newest Moissanite Woman Dina Bonnevie together with Charles and Colvard US and Hong Kong representatives Joe Ambar and Ellen Lau respectively and Moissanite Philippines general manager Mia Florencio. The addition of the SM Megamall shop clearly signifies that Moissanite Jewellery is here to stay and will continue to grow in the years to come. See for yourself the beauty and brilliance of Moissanite at the following locations: 3rd floor SM Megamall Bldg. A (tel. 637-0490); 2nd floor Edsa Mall, Glorietta 1 Ayala Center (tel. 893-0521); lower ground floor SM City North Edsa Main Building (tel. 926-1961).

# Improving survival of high-risk heart patients

THE GREATEST concern for high-risk heart patients is that their long-term survival may be significantly compromised.

Two of the world's highly respected research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies pooled resources to sponsor what is believed to be the largest landmark cardiovascular protection trial of this decade which is expected to answer some questions on how to optimize cardiac care for patients at high risk and improve their long-term survival.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) joins forces with Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) to co-sponsor the Ongoing Telmisartan Alone and in combination with Ramipril Global Endpoint Trial (Ontarget) Programme, the world's largest ever cardiovascular protection trial using an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) which will enroll over 29,000 patients. It will examine the preventive effects of telmisartan, either alone or in combination with the ACE inhibitor ramipril, on stroke, heart attack, cardiovascular death and hospitalization due to congestive heart failure.

This is also one of a few landmark international trials wherein Filipino patients are included in the study. "So, we can really confidently apply the findings of this trial to our local patients," says Dr. Dante Morales, president of the Philippine Lipid Society and one of the Filipino research investigators invited to participate in this prestigious trial.

The Ontarget Trial Programme includes Telmisartan Randomized Assessment Study in ACE-I Intolerant Subjects with Cardiovascular Disease (Transcend). Transcend is a smaller sub-study which aims to determine if telmisartan is effective in reducing the risks of cardiovascular disease compared to placebo (dummy pills) treatment. It will also establish whether or not cardiovascular outcomes can be improved in patients intolerant mostly of the side-effects of ACE inhibitors.

Results of Ontarget Trial Programme are seen to improve the current treatment guidelines used to treat hypertension and will help physicians and patients achieve optimal hypertension management

Co-sponsorship of the Ontarget Trial Programme reflects a growing commitment by GSK to the study of CVD. It is committed to improving the quality of human life by providing scientifically proven effective medicines. GSK has a diverse portfolio of medicines targeted at reducing the multiple risk factors associated with CVD. This includes telmisartan, lacidipine, rosiglitazone as well as a number of compounds in development. Boehringer Ingelheim is the main sponsor of the Ontarget Trial Programme.

**MOTOROLA SPONSORS CHINESE NEW YEAR OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL**

Motorola's Personal Communications Sector (PCS) recently formalized its sponsorship for the Chinese New Year celebration of Mandarin Oriental Manila. Signing the memorandum of agreement (MOA) are (from left) Milen Sison-De Quiros, president of Full Circle Communications, the PR partner of Motorola-PCS; Joseph Chau, the renowned fengshuie master who directs the auspicious rituals at the celebration; Ellen Suarez, Motorola's marketing manager for Motorola-PCS; Dave Thomas, Mandarin's food and beverage director; and Charisse Chuidian, Mandarin's director of communications. Motorola has been sponsoring Mandarin's Chinese New Year celebration for three consecutive years now.

**FREE TRIP FOR MFI WINNER**

A 3rd year mechanical student-scholar of Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI), Jomar Esteron Francisco (center), is shown presenting the trophy and certificate he received for winning 2nd place (basic level) in the 25th anniversary regional metrology competition held in Singapore, to MFI president, Col. Alex Escaño (right). A 7-day all expense paid trip to Japan is Jomar's prize courtesy of Mitutoyo Asia Pacific Pte Ltd where he competed with contestants from six Asian countries. At right is Danny Vinzon, MFI mechanical (tool and die) instructor in charge of Jomar.

**PLDT IP-VPN TO ASSIST UNIONBANK**

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Unionbank to assist the bank in its operations through the use of PLDT's network facilities and telecommunications and other value-added services. As a result, Unionbank availed of PLDT's Embed Service, a wholesale banking solution that enables a bank partner to build a community among its clients through the use of the IP-VPN network solution. Present during the signing are executives from PLDT and Unionbank: (seated from left) Katrina Luna, business head of PLDT Convergence; Ernesto Alberto, senior vice president of PLDT corporate business group; Herminio Pugeda, executive vice president of Unionbank corporate product banking; and Teodoro Panganiban, EVP of Unionbank's channel management, process and quality management. Standing (from left) Ariel Roda, PLDT SVP of business development group; Jun Darjuan, PLDT product manager of managed networking category; Pablo Apostol, PLDT senior manager of managed networking category; Elisa Tacoloy, PLDT relationship manager of Convergence; Joselito Limjap, PLDT AVP of corporate product research and development; Carina Ocampo, PLDT relationship manager for regional; Ceferino Tolentino, Unionbank SVP of information technology group; Frederick Claudio, Unionbank VP of corporate banking group 2; Martin Reyes, Unionbank FVP of cash management services; and Edwin Bautista, Unionbank EVP of retail banking center.

**BODY TUNE'S TRADITIONAL THAI MASSAGE**

Come and feel the range of Body Tune pampering treatments. It offers authentic Thai massage as well as other forms of massages. Body Tune also does different kinds of body and facial treatments. Come and visit their branches at SM City North Edsa Annex telephone number 926-9654, their newly opened branch in SM Bicutan and SM Bacoor. Soon to open are branches in SM Marilao, SM Cebu and SM Davao.

**MANILA DENTAL SOCIETY CONVENTION**

Solvang Pharma Inc, a fast-growing national pharma company recently participated in the Manila Dental Society's 67th Annual Convention held in Manila Pavilion. Solvang's Power of 3 - Termox, Finox and Hemoclot, were given to the attendees of this prestigious event for dentists. Posed in Solvang's booth are Dr. Fidel Bondoc, DMD; Bayani Fernando, MMDA chair; Dr. Susan Castro, DMD; Dr. Marilyn Dimaandal-Daria; Harlean Peralta, district sales manager - Solvang Pharma Inc and Dr. Katherine Martin, DMD.

# HR professionals create code of ethics

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), recently began drafting a code of ethics for its members. According to PMAP, the need for a code of ethics comes at a time when the role of the human resource professional is being recognized as an enabler in shaping an environment and culture of good governance in the companies they serve.

Oscar Contreras Jr., PMAP chair of the board for ethical standards says, "The code provides the HR practitioner a frame of reference for governing his actuation and proper decorum in the right practice of his profession.

Aside from instilling and affirming his good behavior, the code also aims to promote and maintain public trust and confidence in the integrity and professionalism of PMAP members.

The crafting of the code began in the first quarter of 2003 by a working committee composed of Oscar Contreras Jr. of Globe Telecom, Ramon Medina of RFM Corp, Ramon FR. Medina of Ayala Corp, lawyer Noli Payos of Change Management International Inc; lawyer Rene Soriano of Sycip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan Law Offices, and Anton Jacomina of Globe Telecom.

PMAP's code of ethics contains rules of conduct and guidelines for the enforcement of the rules covering conflicts of interest, honesty and integrity, and good conduct.

**SPONSORS OF TAIWAN FAMILIARIZATION TOUR**

Jeron Travel and Tours Corp, the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, China Airlines and EVA Air sponsored a familiarization tour of Taiwan. This series of familiarization tours are aimed in boosting the tourism industry of Taiwan. Photo shows (from left) Caroline Lontoc, Jeron Travel sales and marketing manager; Renith Rivera, China Airlines sales manager; Penny Navaro, EVA Air, passenger sales representatives and Sarina Chang, general manager of Jeron Travel and Tours.

## ProductFILES

### *Sony Atrac3: The power of the net, the convenience of a CD*

SONY Atrac3 makes your life easier. Imagine 490 songs all in one CD? This is something music buffs have to watch out for.

Sony Atrac3/MP3 CD Walkman comes in various models to suit your personality and lifestyle. With its slim and compact build it can be easily brought to wherever you want to go. And because you want style, it also comes in trendy colors that will fit your mood for the day.

The latest Sony CD Walkman technology combines the convenience and portability of CD playback and the vast resources of Internet-based music. Sony CD Walkman is now compatible with more music formats. It supports Sony's Atrac3 and Atrac3 Plus, as well as commonly found MP3 file formats. It is made possible by SonicStage Simple Burner software that allows you to burn up to 490 songs. Atrac3Plus has superior sound quality, efficient compression, and long battery life. This feature-packed techno wonder has net music playback and synthesizer tuner. Power up your music experience with Sony Atrac3/MP3 CD Walkman.

**MEDOCAP WITH 15TH STRIKE WING**

The Public Affairs Service conducted a joint medocap with the 15th Strike Wing in Sangley Point Cavite, recently in which 2,200 beneficiaries received medical, dental, optometric, deworming, milk feeding and nutrition services. Shown in picture are Col. Ed Ramos department PAS, Cmdr. Ruby Lim head optometrist PAS, TSgt. Lumen Balganion PAF and TSgt. E Velacruz PA.

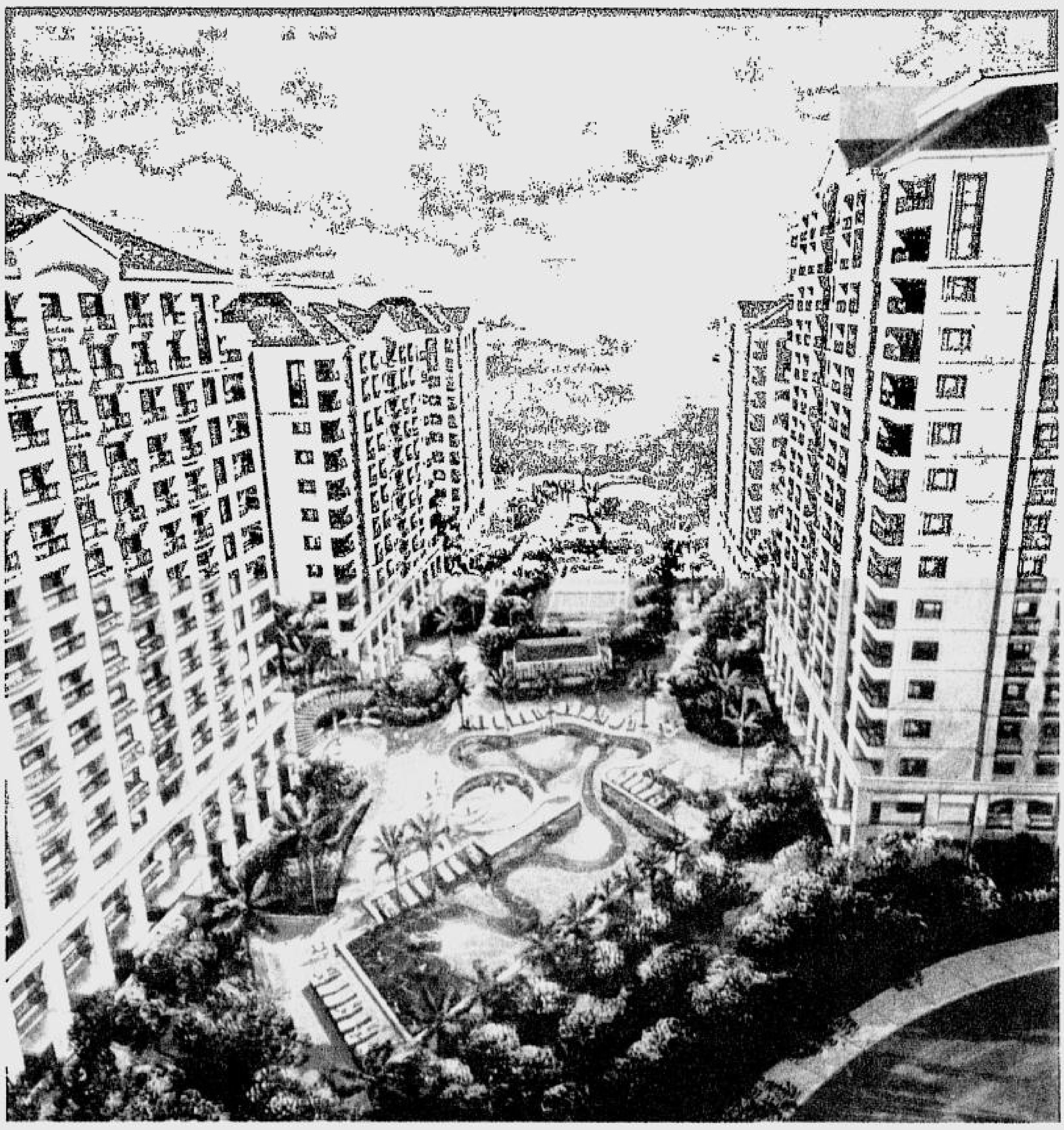
**UCKA AWARDS CHAMPS OF FILIPINO-KOREAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

United Korean Community Association (Ukca) president Jae Jung Jang presents the facsimile check to the champion of the 12th Filipino Korean Cultural Festival - Lydia's Helping Hand Mission Foundation which presented a Filipiniana number during the competition held at the Manila Film Center last Sept. 20. The group, composed of children in slum areas of Tondo, was lead by Korean missionary Sharon Balais who herself is married to a Filipino which helps her achieve the foundation's vision for the poor.

## Ellen's Aesthetics Center offers 50% off

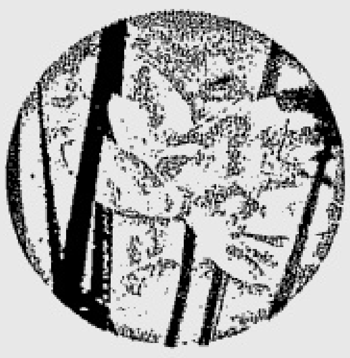
THE CHAIN of Ellen's Aesthetics Centers offers 50 percent discount on various services on Dec. 15 in all Metro Manila branches as part of its Christmas promo. Ellen's patrons will have the chance to don a new "look" this Christmas and eliminates stress brought about by the holiday's rush through Ellen's beauty enhancement services including facial, laser treatment, skin treatments and whitening; and spa services among others. They can avail of discounted rate and minimize Christmas expenses on this whole day promo at Timog Ave. QC; West Ave., QC; Acropolis Libis; Las Piñas and Rizal Ave., Manila. All services are rendered by the highly-trained staff or by Ellen Lising herself, president of the chain of Ellen's Skin Care and Permanent Cosmetics, who has been at the forefront in the business for 25 years. Details can be obtained at 413-3375/413-6375.

**FORBESWOOD HEIGHTS**
LUXURY GARDEN RESIDENCES
*Come Home to Paradise.*



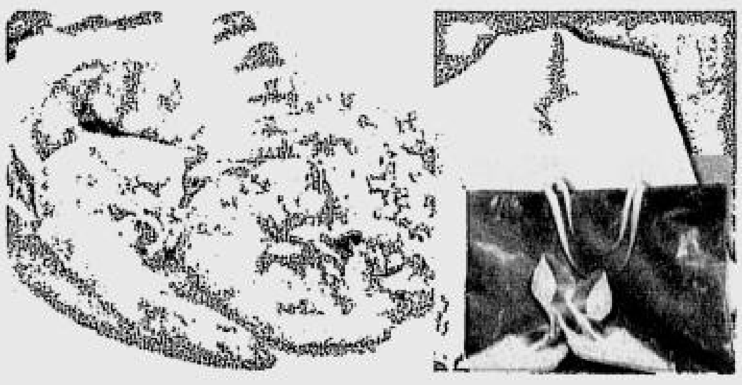
# Forbeswood Heights
## Your very own Paradise...

Emerging as one of the most coveted pieces of real estate in the country, Forbeswood Heights transforms home into a tropical getaway. Offering a paradise-like setting in the middle of the metropolis, this six-tower enclave achieves comfort and style through a balance of thoughtfully planned elements. For urban professionals based in the nearby Makati and even Ortigas central business districts, Forbeswood Heights offers exquisite residences combined with first-rate recreational amenities.



At Forbeswood Heights, today's urban pacesetters reward themselves with exclusive access to their own tropical paradise. This condominium project brings the outdoors indoors with its 5,500-square-meter central park, an extensive recreational area embraced by lush greenery. There is a swimming pool complex with a 25-meter-long lap pool, a free-form pool with in-water lounge and a children's wading pool with water slide. By the pool deck is an inviting sunbathing lounge.

From executive studios to one-bedroom suites that range from 36 to 59 square meters, Forbeswood Heights redefines the concept of owning a luxury home. Units can be joined to suit a client's space requirements. Rooms are airy and bright. The layout is luxurious yet uncomplicated. And with its affordable prices and flexible payment terms, one easily lays claim to an address and a lifestyle of exceptional prestige.



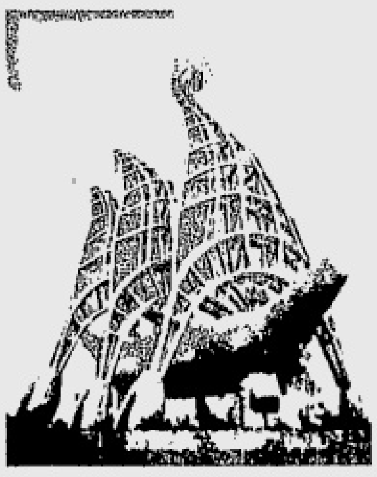
A multipurpose hall with a barbecue pit hosts a variety of functions. A fitness station, jogging path, tennis court and putting green provide challenging workouts. A playground enfolded by palm trees and landscaped gardens allows children to frolic to their hearts' content.

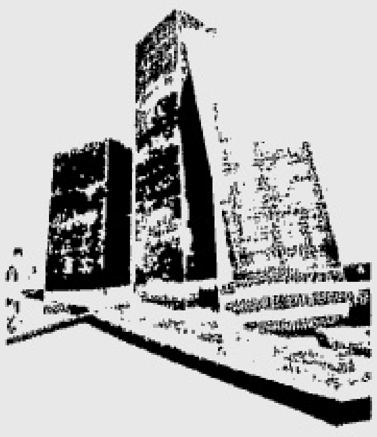
Beyond the gates lies Forbes Town Road, a leisure strip that echoes Singapore's Bugis Junction. With rows of cafés, restaurants, bars and specialty shops a few paces away, everyday celebrations are just waiting to happen.

# ...Nestled amid the best of a Global City

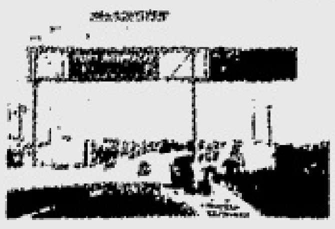
Forbeswood Heights lies within the Global City, a world-class business district, and is located right next to the country's foremost symbols of distinction: the Manila Golf and Country Club, the Manila Polo Club and the Forbes Park subdivision. This illustrious neighborhood, one of the city's main attractions, allows residents to live at the height of prominence.

Nearly half of the Global City's land is devoted to open space and greenery. Urban professionals, used to the sight of skyscrapers and cramped roads, will find this place a refreshing change. Also dotting this city of green are striking works of public art created by top Filipino artists such as Gerry Leonardo and Lor Calma.



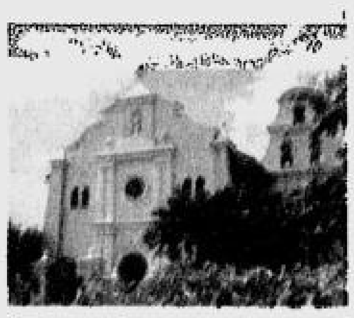


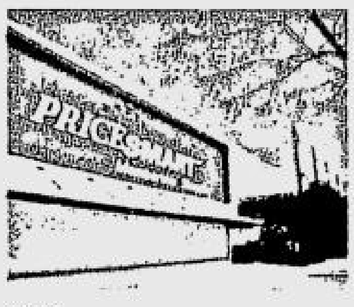
Much of the Global City's infrastructure has been laid underground. Its world-class dual piping, power and LPG supply and fiber optic cabling systems ensure the utmost convenience for its residents. Its drainage detention center, the largest private drainage structure in Metro Manila, guarantees that the city remains flood-free during the rainy season.

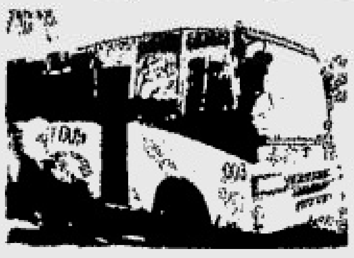


Well-situated amenities within the city such as PriceSmart and MC Home Depot make the daily essentials readily available to residents. The British School Manila, the Manila Japanese School and the International School Manila offer the youth a privileged education. The upcoming St. Luke's Medical Center brings expert health care closer to home.

With the Global City's mass transport system, efficient road network and state-of-the-art traffic services, key destinations become easily accessible. The Makati and Ortigas CBDs can be reached effortlessly via the EDSA Kalayaan Flyover, the South Luzon Expressway and the Circumferential Road (C-5).

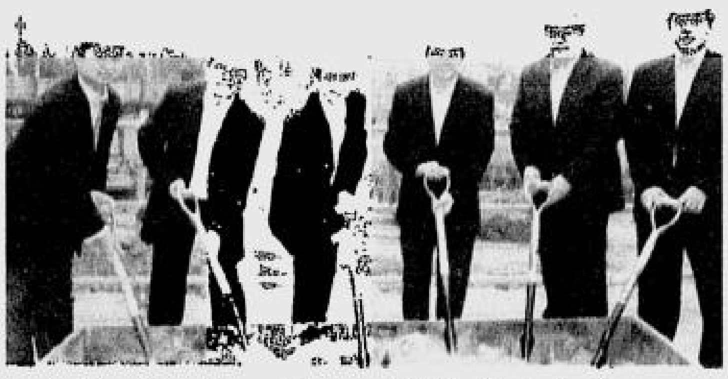






# Transforming the Urban Landscape

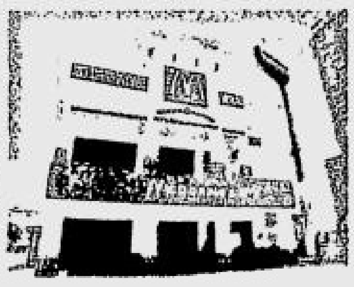
Forbeswood Heights has captured the imagination of urban professionals doing business or working in Makati and Ortigas. With its tropical-paradise allure and the modern conveniences afforded by its vantage location in the Global City, touted as the next most important CBD, the project promises a superior standard of living for its residents. To date, Forbeswood Heights has joined Megaworld's portfolio of fast-selling projects, with the Agoho, Bauhinia, Cambridge and Dorchester towers already sold out and Evergreen 60 percent sold.



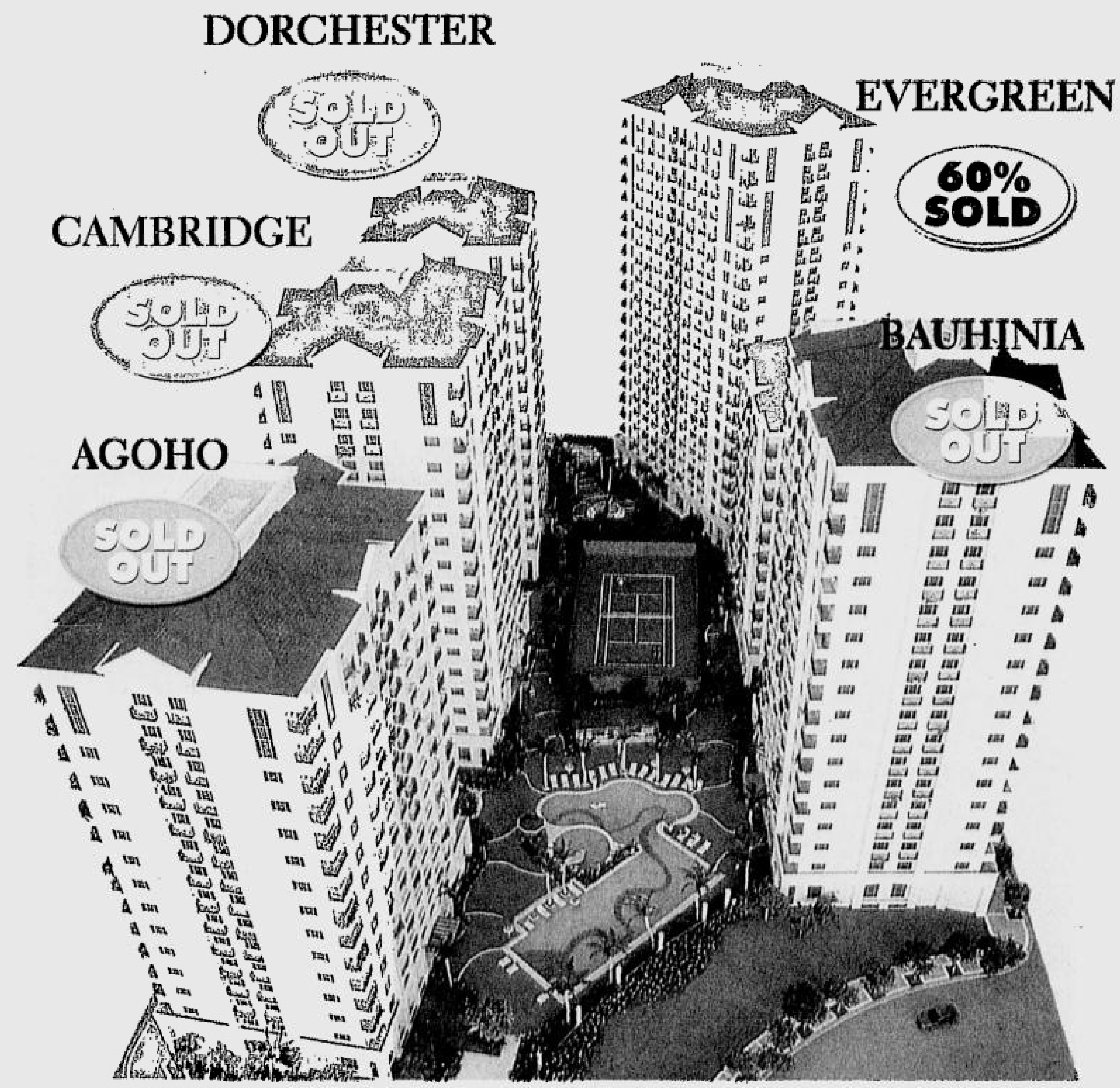
Construction of the six-tower Forbeswood Heights kicked off with a concrete pouring ceremony attended by (from left) Bonifacio West Development Corporation director Kirk U. Young, president Charlie Rufino, vice chairman Jacques Dupasquier, Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan, 19-1 Realty director Macario Rufino and Megaworld senior vice president Kingson Sian.

Joint venture partners Megaworld Corporation and Bonifacio West Development Corp. recently held a concrete pouring ceremony to mark the start of construction of the first and third towers (Agoho and Cambridge) of Forbeswood Heights. The two are scheduled for completion by 2006.

At the site bordering the Manila Golf and Country Club, an impressive three-story grand showroom offers visitors an intimate view of Forbeswood Heights and its community. Model units showcasing the best architectural and interior designs give clients a taste of the sumptuous lifestyle offered only at Forbeswood Heights. The showroom also features a UCC Café at the ground level, a thoughtful addition for visitors who want to unwind after touring the model units. A few steps away, McDonald's, the anchor establishment of Forbes Town Road, caters to people on the go.



Forbeswood Heights is an address for people who want to enjoy the comforts of home from a luxurious garden retreat in the middle of a world-class city. It is a valuable investment—one that enables customers to own the whole of paradise and not just a piece of it.



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**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

**NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION**

**GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM**

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

**(Reinsurance for NAPOCOR/PSALM/TRANSCO'S Industrial All-Risks Insurance Policy)**

In view of the failure of the first bidding held on November 24, 2003, for this purpose, the DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee (JBC), thru its Eligibility and Evaluation Group (EEG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the renewal of reinsurance for the National Power Corporation's Industrial All Risks Insurance Policy, with an indicative budget of US$12.0 Million -- US$14.7 Million, all inclusive, for the period 12:00 noon of January 31, 2004 to 12:00 noon of January 31, 2005.

| | SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Eligibility And Bidding Documents | December 16,2003- January 5, 2004<br>9:00 AM-5:00 PM<br>JBC Secretariat<br>7th Floor, EDPC Bldg. BSP Complex<br>Roxas Blvd., Manila |
| Pre-Bid Conference | December 22, 2003, 9:00 AM<br>Board Rm., 6th Floor<br>DOF Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila |
| Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes | January 6, 2004, 2:00 pm.<br>Office of the Chairman<br>Board Rm., 6th Floor<br>DOF Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila |

For applicant-foreign reinsurers and applicant-brokers with foreign lead reinsurers, the foreign reinsurer must have a credit rating of at least "A" from a reputable rating agency as of June 2003, and certify that it will provide a lead line of at least 20% of the reinsured risk. Domestic and foreign lead reinsurers must have a net worth of at least Php2.0 Billion as of December 31, 2002.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to new applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to Apply and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$500.00 to the National Power Corporation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The JBC and the EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer which it deems responsive and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PORFIRIO B. VILLENA JR.**
*Director IV, PDMSG*
*Presiding Officer, Eligibility and Evaluation Group*
*DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee*

*Inquirer—Dec, 7, 8, 13 &14, 2003*

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UN DP

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

**Contracting of a Consulting Firm : Risk-Based Audit Financial Audit Manual and Training under the Project "Enhancing of Public Accountability of the Philippine Commission on Audit (COA) (PHI/97/022)"**

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and international consultancy firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Development of a Risk Audit Financial Audit Manual and Training under the project "Enhancing of Public Accountability of the Philippine Commission on Audit (PHI/97/022)"

The project aims to assist the Philippine Commission on Audit (COA) to continuously ensure that it utilizes its audit resources in the most efficient manner and adapts modern auditing techniques in their work, particularly applying a Risk Based Approach (RBA) to financial audits.

The project requires the services of a local or international consultant who will assist COA in the quality assurance review of the Financial Audit Manual (FAM), and who will also provide advice and guidance on the associated training and implementation strategies.

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Philippine Pesos One Thousand (PhP 1,000.00), from the following address:

**Development Support Services Center**
**United Nations Development Programme**
**7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building**
**106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier)**
**Tel. No. (632) 892 06 11 loc. 275**
**Fax No. (632) 816 40 61 / 893 2610**
**E-mail address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org**

**International suppliers** are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from December 15 – 31, 2003 only. The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules and requirements.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This advertisement is also posted in the UNDP Headquarters and UNDP Philippines websites from **15 December 2003 to 31 December 2003.**

(PDI – December 14, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE 2000

**Republic of the Philippines**
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Training Provider: Professional Services For KALAHI-CIDSS Training the Trainers on Successful Community Empower and Strengthening Strategies (SUCCESS)**

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services in the conduct of the Training the Trainers for Community Empowerment and Strengthening.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for this flagship project of the government in fighting poverty in the country, is now implementing Project cycle 1 which focus is sustaining community development projects, by providing Area Coordinator Teams training on enhancing project sustainability, DSWD is in need of a Training Provider to develop the training design, course modules and training materials and conduct the training of trainers program.

All interested service providers are invited to submit their letters of interest not later than **December 18, 2003** by email address: **admin@dswd.gov.ph** or at the address given below. Strong preference will be given to those with extensive and credible record in designing, managing, conducting and evaluating training programs on project operation and maintenance using interactive technologies. Experience in community development and related programs will be a distinct advantage.

The service provider will be selected in accordance with the Procurement Guidelines set out in the Guidelines: Selection and Employment of consultants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 1997, September 1997, July 1998, and May 2002.

For further information, interested parties may visit www.procurementservice.org.ph or inquire at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays and secure documents.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
*Asst. Secretary, and Chairperson*
*Bids and Awards Committee,*
*Dept. of Social Welfare and Development*
*Batasang Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Q.C.*

(PDI - Dec. 14, 2003)

---

PHILIPPINE 2000

**Republic of the Philippines**
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**
Batasan Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Expression of Interest**
**RFP No. ECDP-WB/03-DSWD-005**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) towards the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project (Loan No. 4301 PH). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible payments under this contract.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites proponents for the Translation and Printing of QUESTION AND ANSWER PRIMER. Proponents must have minimum of three to five years experience in translating materials into Filipino language.
3. Interested proponents may submit their Application Letters, Curriculum Vitaés and sample works to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone numbers: 951-7116 until 29 December 2003 at 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
*Assistant Secretary and*
*DSWD BAC Chairperson*

(PDI - Dec. 14, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila

## INVITATION TO REGISTER AND TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites Contractors classified by CIAP and registered with PCAB and with technical knowhow in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology Application or Contractors with Joint Venture Agreement to Applicators who Specialized in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology to register and apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

| NAME OF PROJECT AND LOCATION | APPROVED BUDGET | CONTRACTOR'S CLASSIFICATION | CONTRACT DURATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Repair of MFC Warehouse #4<br>MFC Compound, Valenzuela City | P4,000,000.00 | At least Medium A | 120 Calendar Days |

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Issuance of Application Forms and List of Registration Requirements | December 8-19, 2003<br>(From 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) |
| 2. | Deadline for Submission of Application and Registration Requirements | Not later than 4:00 p.m.<br>December 30, 2003 |
| 3. | Issuance of Certificate of Registration And Application/Requirements for Eligibility and to Bid including Bid Documents | On or before January 12, 2004<br>(From 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) |
| 4. | Pre-Bidding Conference | January 21, 2004 (10:00 a.m.) |
| 5. | Submission and Opening of Bids | February 02, 2004 (10:00 a.m.) |

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Regional Bid and Award Committee (RBAC), National Food Authority, U.N. Ave., Paco, Manila.

Application form and list of requirements for registration may be secured at the NFA-RBAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable registration fee of Php 2,000.00. Only those issued with Certificates of Official Registration may apply for eligibility and to bid. Application form and requirements for eligibility and to bid (Bid documents and plans) shall be issued only upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 3,000.00.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality, and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. KASHIDES TACO**
Asst. Regional Director & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – December 6 & 14, 2003)

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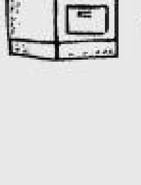

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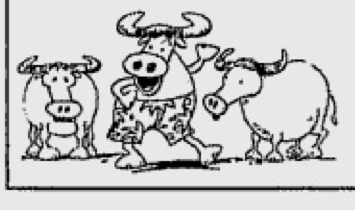

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

---

Republic of the Philippines
**UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN**
Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the selection of proponents in the planning, development and management under a lease agreement of the:

**UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) DILIMAN TOWN CENTER**

The UP Diliman Land Use Plan designates a commercial zone of approximately 14,186.80 square meters, bounded by Laurel, Apacible, Valenzuela and Roces Streets, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City. The UP Diliman Town Center Project is intended to replace, upgrade and expand the existing shopping center.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the UP Diliman Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat, Director's Office, Institute for Small-Scale Industries (4/F Virata Hall/ISSI Bldg.) University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from **January 12 to 16, 2004**. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on **January 23, 2004**. After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified proponents shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please contact Tel. No. **920-5301** to **99** loc. **4717**; Tel./Fax No. **920-6923**, or Tel. No. **927-9238**; (c/o Ms. Ludy Cubillas); e-mail: *lourdes.cubillas@up.edu.ph*.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
*Chancellor*

(PDI - Dec. 14 & 21, 2003)

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## CONSTANTINO "BOY" B. DUMATOL

of **Nasugbu, Batangas**
**(1935-2003)**

*Died on December 12, 2003 at the age of 68.*

His bereaved wife **WILHELMINA**; children **MICHIE** & **ERIC**, **MEI** & **NEIL**, **MARIE**, **LESLIE** & **REGGIE**; grandchildren **AIKA**, **ISABELA** and **ENZO**; brothers **JOHNNY**, **OBET** and **BABY**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City up to Monday December 15, 2003, 7:00 a.m., and will be transferred to Nasugbu, Batangas (232 J.P. Laurel St., Nasugbu).

Interment will be on December 18, 2003,
Thursday after the 1:00 p.m. Mass
at the Cathedral of Nasugbu, Batangas.

---

## *Aida L. Nuñez-Serrano*

*has happily joined our Heavenly Father on December 13, 2003.*

Her husband **Joey**; children **Caloy** & **Amy**, **Junjun**, **Tommy** & **Arlin**, **Helen** & **Jim**, **Dindo** & **Marie**, and **Letlet**; and grandchildren, **CJ**, **Nenchie**, **Nica**, **Mike**, **TJ**, and **Joseph** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park after the Celebration of the Eucharist.

*"Little things mean a lot!"*

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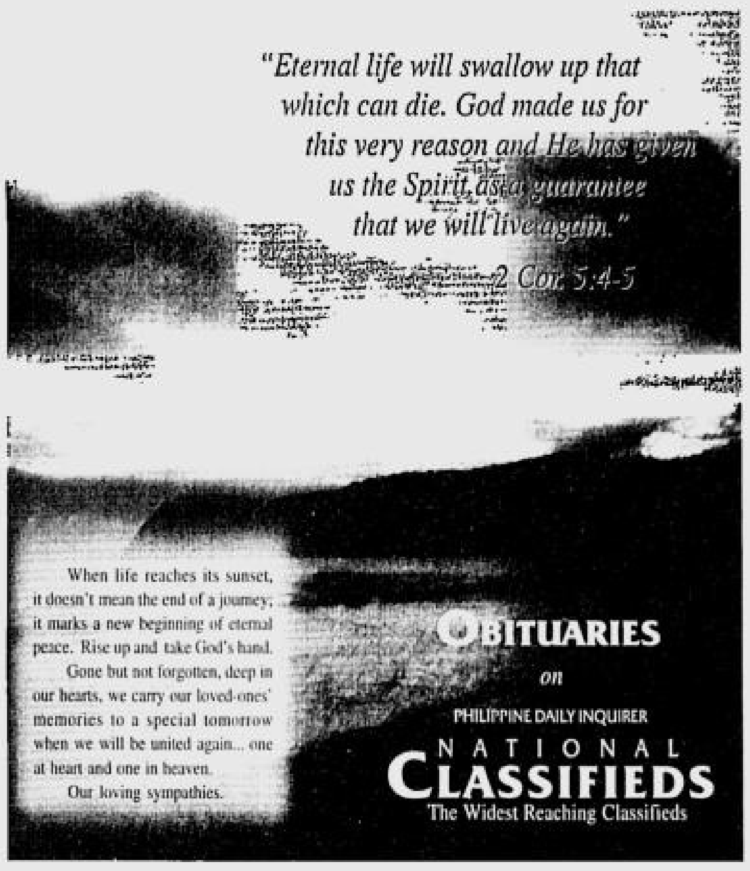
*"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."*
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.
Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.
Our loving sympathies.

OBITUARIES on PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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**"For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish but have everlasting life."**

John 3:16

---

## PILAR MOJICA ARAGON

*Peacefully joined her Creator on December 12, 2003
at the age of 85.*

Her bereaved children **DONNIE, BOMBIT, ARTHUR (†), JOHNBOY** and **PIWI**; children-in-law **MARIE, BABY, NETTE** and **VICKY**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Baltazar Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Sucat Road, Parañaque City until December 16, 2003; then at Funeraria Sapinoso, Imus, Cavite until December 18, 2003.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at the Imus Cemetery, Imus, Cavite.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am,
My servant also will be." John 12:16

---

*In Loving Memory of*

## PAUL AND MICHAEL QUINTOS

On their Sixth Death Anniversary, December 13, 2003

We thank you, for all your prayers, for all your Mass offerings, for all your kind thoughts and memories of our beloved **PAUL** and **MICHAEL**, on the sixth anniversary of their passing.

Our Lord took them in their best moments and with all the best reasons and always for the good.

We find solace in our faith in God, all our prayers and our beliefs that we will eventually find justice.

We request more prayers for the eternal repose of their souls.

With much gratitude,

**Ding** and **Agnes Quintos** and family
**Michelle** and **Gio Quintos**

---

## Don Miguel L. Arambulo, Sr.

*has peacefully joined our Creator on December 12, 2003
at the age of 100.*

His late wife **Eugenia** (†); children **Pacita** and **Gerino** (†) **Tolentino**, **Mike** and **Betty**, **Ading** and **Zony**, **Tomas** and **Angie**, **Pepito**, **Jake** (†) and **Belen**, **Carlito** (†) and **Nene**, **Tony** (†) and **Resie**, **Linda** and **Tony Guanzon**; sister **Nenita Mallari**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces and nephews request all readers, especially those whose lives he had touched, to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

**His body lies in state at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall in New Manila, Quezon City. Holy Mass will be offered in his memory every 8 pm until Tuesday. Interment will be announced later.**

---

## EMILIO P. VILLAMAYOR, JR.

**of San Juan, Metro Manila and Toronto, Canada**

*Peacefully joined our Lord on Dec. 11, 2003, at the age of 68.*

His bereaved wife **Nena**; children **Elizabeth**, **Enrique**, **Esperanza**, **Encarnacion**, **Elena** and **Eugene**; children-in-law, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of Milet's soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at San Juan Cemetery, Metro Manila, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

---

*"... and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."* (Psalm 23:6)

## Engr. SOLIMAN S. SANTOS, Sr.

**of Parañaque City**
**(March 4, 1928 - December 14, 2002)**

**ON THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH**

His surviving sisters **Leticia**, **Perla Minda**, **Rizalina** & **Bessie**; wife **Merci**; children **Soliman Jr.**, **Ricco** & **Rayla**; grandchildren & great grandson request relatives & friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Thanks.

---

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**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.** Matthew 10:39

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BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

Own A Condo in Fort Boni
at 40% LESS!
Call Tess 700-2172 10-2pm

#### MANILA

930T nr UST 0920-8309744

ESPANA TOWER
nr UST 0917-8102903

Nr UST 3.6M 4br 3tb 1cg Nr bank, Loan Ok Call 645-3731

#### MANDALUYONG

RUSH SALE 3BR 2TB twnhse type w/garage P2.750M neg 0917-4143703 private subd.

#### PASIG

Alexandra 250m² 3BR P9.6M-Rent 65T/mo 6337601-03

Malayan Plaza ADB Ave. Nr Podium Cell 0917-5213838

Malayan Plaza
Stud1-2-3BR frnt ADB Podium
30%DP Bal inhse/bank
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

• Valle Verde 5 • SMC Twnhe Sale / Rent 3br 2cg 3tb 671-2567 • 0917-5253465

VVERDE 3BR 1.7M T9124323

#### QUEZON CITY

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17 Samar Ave. 09184491555

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AURORA / LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.

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MOVE-IN @ 10% DP
*TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE*
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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

**HOUSE & LOT FOR SALE**

Location & Description:

2 Storey elegant house located at Thomas Street corner John Street, Multinational Village, Parañaque City; 4 bedrooms each with T & B; office room; family room; living room; formal dining room; small dining room; kitchen; maids quarter; 8-10 parking capacity.

LOT AREA : 1,175 sq.m. Php 16,256,250.00 (negotiable)
HOUSE : 815 sq.m.

For particulars: Please call at 811-5807 up to 14 / Fax No. 811-5815
Ask for **Gee/Cirila/Kiko/Dannie**
Note: Prices subject to change without prior notice

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### QUEZON CITY

•CUBAO 3BR 2TB MAIDS RM GARAGE 9126653 9116758

Last CondoTel Unit Regalia Park Cubao at old Price 09175582479

Rushl Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2tb 0916-7069277

#### RIZAL

BIRMINGHAM
Place2/Homes/Sunrise
H&L/Lot/Twnhse
San Mateo 2br1tb grg P1Mup
Cainta 3br 2tb garage P1.5M
Antipolo 2br2tb grge P1.150T
NORMA 656-5907
HUMAN 947-0325

#### QUEZON CITY

New Manila 6M 09184491555

### MEMORIAL LOT

MALAYAN GUD LOC 2884154

Mt. Zion Taytay 0920-8521248

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 1501m² P1M BENG 9314466 /9124573

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•CONDO / HOUSE & LOT
SALE / RESALE
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### LOT

#### MANILA

Nr Malacanang 570sqm 16T /sm Neg Call 645-3731

#### PASIG

URGENT SALE R.Thaddeus St Romeo Marietta Vill 261m² neg Cristy 09167864705

#### RIZAL

CRESTVIEW Subd Marcos Hway nr Sta Lucia LA120 3700m² Nido T9330229

Land ideal for Factory /Piggery 13988m² 1T/m² nr San Mateo Rizal Call Rina @ 7244574/7260201

Town & Country nr La Salle Antipolo 180m² P500T 09175582479

Town & Country Phase2 Brgy San Luis Antipolo Tindalo cor Dapdap nr La Salle 235m² P820K Look for Oscar 4197714 / 09203091037

#### OTHER PROVINCIAL

231 M² Natnl Hway Juban Sorsogon 09198429054

231 M² Natnl Hway Guinlajon Sorsogon 09198429054

Puerto Princesa Beachfront @800/ sqm Contact Nick 0917-2703720

#### QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS cor lot AM Sun 514m²@34T/m² 6337601-03

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### COMMERCIAL

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### LOT

### LOT

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9120943 / 09178990943

Xaviervill 2 Nice Loc 17,000T /sqm Call 645-3731

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

#### MANILA

DEL PAN STA ANA MLA 5310471

#### PASIG

Metropolis Vil Sta Lucia 5BR 3TB Wall Paper 0916-7050748

#### QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS Front Park 4BR @ 45T/mo 6337601-03

Commonwealth Capitol Estates2 3BR 2TB 0920-9237438

#### RIZAL

4BR 2TB Kingsville Subd Marcos Hway 6478751 Baby

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

#### MAKATI

Ctyland P.Tamo 10T 09196373172

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mktl 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

#### PASIG

Twnhse 3BR 2TB Gar 25TH 6321739 1.4Km Fr. Megamall

#### QUEZON CITY

3BR Valencia corner Castilla St T7207909 / 09175325838 Rowena

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### QUEZON CITY

NEW MANILA few minutes drive to St Lukes, nr San Juan 2BR P17T/mo 700-1393

TWNHSE 3BR Grge #71Ponce E. Rodriguez Call 9274719

### APARTMENT

#### MAKATI

236 Aguho St Comembo 2BR w/Grge strong H20 728-3283

2BR 2TB Maids Rm Garage Living & Dining Rm Kitchen Near Buendia Taft LRT 25T 634-3860 • 634-1173

1BR W/GARAGE MKT8992148

#### MANILA

3BR NAGTAHAN 715-1687

#### LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,000 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

#### MANDALUYONG

845 Samat St., Mand. City
Tel. # 5337709 to 12

#### QUEZON CITY

PROJ.3 2BR Ladies 6.5T nr church 9136820 4331446

Studio Unit w/TB kitchen grge 22 Charleyville White Plains Call late PM till evening 9115162

#### VALENZUELA

2 STOREY
13 DOOR APARTMENT
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3. CHEMICAL TANKS
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Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 96
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Caloocan City w/Mezzanine & Tel. Line Call 02-8729347

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**FOR LEASE/SALE**
* 16th FLR HIDALGO
197 SQM ROCKWELL
3 BR/F. FURNISHED 150T
* PENTHOUSE UNIT
204 SQM 8 WACK WACK
3 BR/S. FURNISHED 70T
* FARMLOT 2.5 HAS
ROSARIO,
BATANGAS 15/SQM
CALL: ARNEL 660-1058
0919-2027711

### FOR LEASE

FORLEASE
1. OFFICE SPACES
Legaspi/Salcedo Vill.Makati
2. STORE SPACES/WAREHOUSES
Las Pinas / Cavite / Binondo
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL-NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 96
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

### ROOM & BOARD

MKT 8302309/ 09164739110

Prj3 new 3.5T studio9137513

### BUSINESS RENTAL

DAMPA
Sa Timog
Foodstalls for Rent
P12T/mo 48 Timog Ave QC 3743146:09175225693 Nonon Opening January 2, 2004

OROSA ERMITA 5251339

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

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Makati Buendia 4.5T 810-6386

Office units for rent. Locsin Bldg Ayala cor Mktl Ave 50, 141, 199 & 888sqm. P300/sqm For more details, call Nina at 817-0405

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1800 sqm 2 bldgs. w/ ofc space
Ideal for factory &/or warehouse
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## OTHER REAL ESTATE

### REALTORS/SEMINAR

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Looking for Farm in Tanay Rizal, 4has. 0920-9112910

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### HONDA

01 VTis A/T 21Tkm 550T Casa Mntnd Tsilver 0916-7050748

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### HONDA

1999 SIR NHBLK P510K T#850-9893 / 0916-3915058

97 LXi Kaiser Silver 280K nego. 0917-6226227

#### MAZDA

Mazda323 Taxi with line P130T neg LD 09193158913

#### MITSUBISHI

98 Paj 4x4 Dsl A/T P590T 8950971

#### NISSAN

94 VNet 190K WKPT 8207904

JR Hummer New Saf System 33 Tires Nice 726-3283

NISSAN FE SENTRA 1998 #726-2465 • 230T

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Purchase June '01 A1 Racing Green Beige Leather Seats Mil 32Tkms Call Aida 9-6 Mon-Fri 637-33-28 • 632-90-51

### BUSES/TRUCKS

96 Mits Canter dropside P220Th excellent condition 7323426 Malen

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Speedboat 15 ft 70 HP Evenrude with trailer in perfect condition •896-7851/897-9102•

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

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BNEW 5639774 / 09177348678

CAR VANS 410-0495

CARS/ VANS/ BUS/ 8969956

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L300 VAN 4711695 09163443087

L300/ADV. 741-1356

REVO w/driver 9272821

VAN (0918)5713613 / 7806589

VANS FOR RENT 941-2546

### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### APPLIANCES

JUST CALL WE DELIVER
3ton carrier condura 03 model P35T, 5ton ceiling mount P45T 2HP carrier A/C P9T 1.5HP P7T 1HP P6T 6Evangelista St. Xavieville QC 921-9465 or 426-0930

### BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

### GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

#### BUY/SELL

4 Sale: Prudential Fxd-Value EduPlan-Maturity 2008 Frances •8907534•7760662•

EDUCATION PLAN 0061674

EDUCATION PLANS 7137204

PASIG

Logo Slide 4Th 620-4562

#### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

#### PETS

Golden Ret 10T 7210040

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PHIL. DOG SCHOOL trains dogs SCIENTIFICALLY T721-37-38 • 0917-848-9308

ROTT 6mo. old with papers Call 9274710 ; 4833806

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EDUCATION PLANS 2557990

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7220433 • 4123643

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#### FEMALE

★EXEC ASST★
Degree in Pol Sc or Foreign Service 20-25 Yrs. Send Resume to hdrglobal@lawyer.com

★STUDENT TRAINEE★
Computer Course 4th yr. 8175611

Makati Medical Ctr-Medical Secretary Needed 893-3301

#### MALE/FEMALE

•DIRECT HIRE•
OFFICE/MKTG STAFF 18/46yo coll level/grad w,w/o exp start asap w/ hi-salary 9134470 Marlene

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Software must be: 20yrs old /above computer literate; Mori Call 903-0067
email: smb131@yahoo.com

Acct/Bookkeeper-8151601 8441616-School in Makati

All around beautician txt 09173991908 ASAP

Cook Min 3 Yr Exp Italian Food & Resto Staff Send Resume 27 Saturn St Bel Air 2 Mkt Fax 8967357

COST ENGR / QS / CIVIL
Est. Reg CE /2-3yrs exp Bid Computer lit Submit resume to: East Metro Construction Inc., Capt. RM Puray Bldg, 66 Gen Ordonez St. Marikina Telfax 934-7065•475-3950

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Hiring Credit Investigator Mktg Asst/Acct Exec/Sales & Collector Call#09624-07/62

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

JOB HIRING 09193362395 KC

MKTG OFC PRSNL 0926-2063893

MKTNG OFC STF 09208062187

MKTNG/OFC STF 09187819414

OFC MKTG STAFF M/F
18-45 yrs old any course with Hi-salary 4307472 Ms. Jag

OFC MKTG STF 09106014777 DITH

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Cell 0927 375 4541 / 0920 418 4776

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- Female, single, preferably MassCom graduate & not more than 25 years old
- Computer literate, with good communication skills & pleasing personality.

Address:
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Avenue, Quezon City
Tel# (02) 7269833 / 09192022087

#### MALE/FEMALE

OFC MKTG STAFF M/F
18-40 yrs old any course with Hi-salary 4307472 Monique

OFC STF/MKTG 09194306615 RICH

OFC STF/MKTG 09203652010 KYLA

PHARMACIST Look for KAKA Office. Hrs 9300749

URGENT OFC/MKTG STAFF w/ salary, col. grad/level w/ w/o exp Ms. IRISH 936-2902

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN XTRA P8000/MO 8704144

#### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the S2 Lic. 3019R98-1400 of Ms. Loomi Recols & S2 Lic. 7211R98-1461 of Robert Olivarez were lost. Date issued Sept. 3, 1998 (PDI-December 14, 2003)

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590 5276416 "Avail of the Special New Year Promo, Enroll Now!

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that Provisional Receipt no.67036 of CENTRAL BOOKSTORE was cancelled due to wrong issuance. Any transactions under this no. shall not be honored by the company.

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Rufino I. Arcedio was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc 134 Page 28 Book WII Series 2003 by Notary Public Atty Librado S. Angeles
(PDI - Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2003)

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MUST B EMPLYD 9842665

Sideline : JEWELRY CONSIGN Orientation M-S 8-6 ; 4531478

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT AREA SAMPALOC MANILA 936-1426 / 937-2822

RETIRE 2YRS 09169051567

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

RTW/Blouses P28.00 7274934

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

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for tiangge/bazaar
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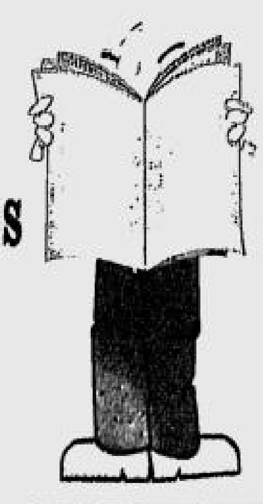

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Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
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## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the selection of proponents in the planning, development and management of the:

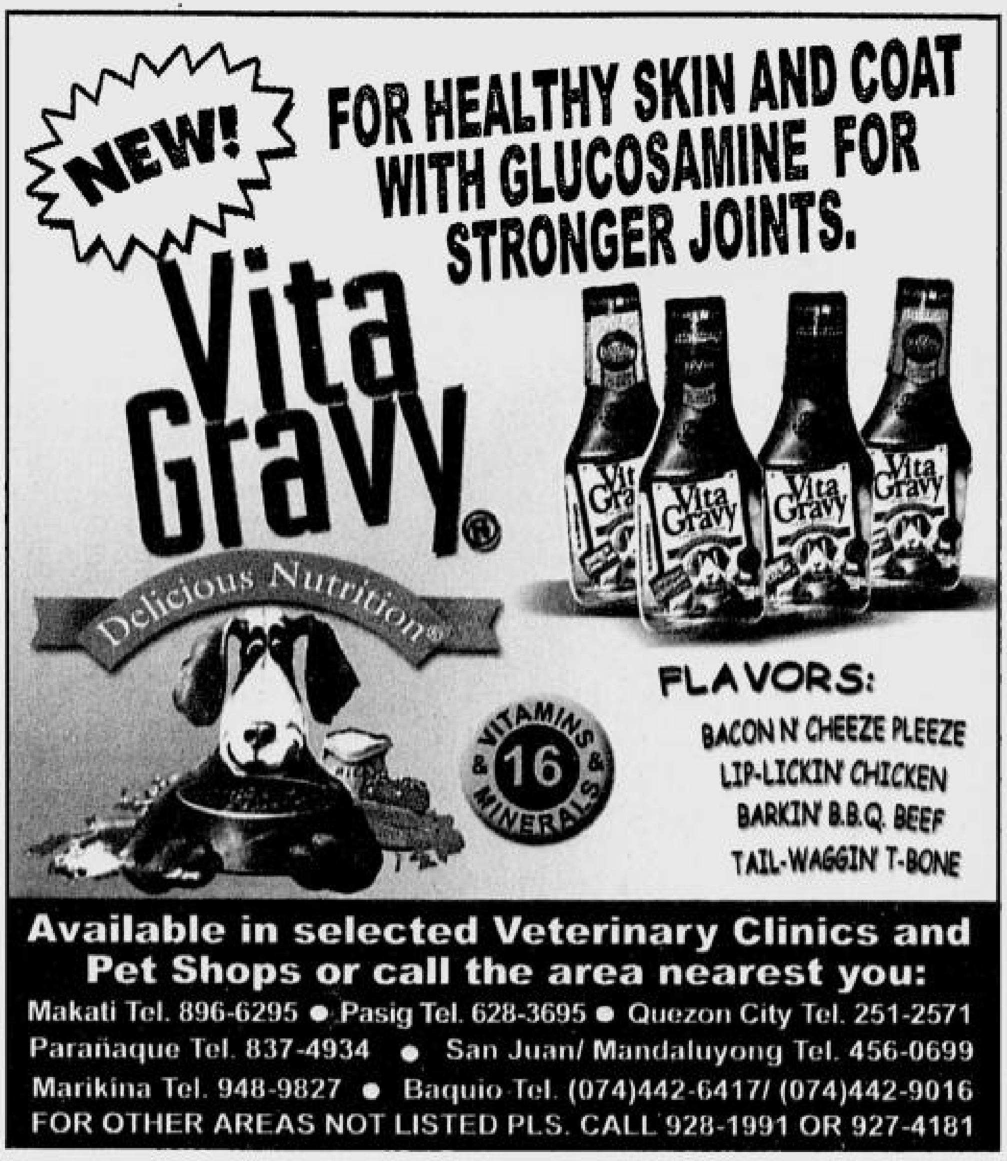
**UP DILIMAN UNIVERSITY AVENUE INTERMODAL TRANSPORT STATION AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEX**

University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman invites proponents to bid for the planning, development and management of an approximately 3.5-hectare property at the University entrance zone, south Philcoa area, extending eastward along University Avenue, as an Intermodal Transport Station and Commercial Complex, under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Arrangement.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the UP Diliman Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat, Director's Office, Institute for Small-Scale Industries (4/F Virata Hall/ISSI Bldg.) University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from **January 12 to 16, 2004.** Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on **January 23, 2004.** After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified proponents shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please contact Tel. No. **920-5301 to 99** loc. **4717**; Tel./Fax No. **920-6923**, or Tel. No. **927-9238**; (c/o Ms. Ludy Cubillas); e-mail: lourdes.cubillas@up.edu.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
*Chancellor*

(PDI - Dec. 14 & 21, 2003)



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Marikina Tel. 948-9827 • Baguio Tel. (074)442-6417/ (074)442-9016
FOR OTHER AREAS NOT LISTED PLS. CALL 928-1991 OR 927-4181

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the President
**Central Fund Management Office**

ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT

3rd Floor, VHW Building (Land Bank)
Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (62) 992-2684 to 86, 992-2705 to 06, 992-2879, 991-6386
Fax No. (62) 991-9410

## ANNOUNCEMENT ON VACANCIES

The Government of the Philippines has availed a loan from the World Bank thru the ARMM Social Fund Project. The Project aims to improve the access of conflict-affected barangays in ARMM to basic social services such as potable water, medicines, health clinics, and other rural and strategic infrastructures. It will also provide immediate employment for those involved in the implementation of the Project.

Based on a transparent and competitive process, the ARMM Social Fund is seeking competent candidates to staff the Central Fund Management Office (CFMO) located in Zamboanga City and two Area Offices located in Jolo, Sulu (AFMO-Island) and Marawi City (AFMO-Mainland) respectively.

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following at the address below: 1) letter stating their interest in the position and providing a concise summary of the main reasons why candidate presumes to be qualified for the position, 2) detailed curriculum vitaé, 3) photocopy of college diploma, and 4) employment / professional references with contact information. Applications must be received not later than December 17, 2003.

| POSITION & PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT | NO. OF POSITION | QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|
| **MIS & M&E Head**<br>CFMO-Zamboanga City | 1 | Relevant Bachelor's Degree preferably with Masters; 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision; Responsible for organizing and supervising, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), Management Information System (MIS) and Information Dissemination |
| **Legal Officer** – CFMO | 1 | Bachelor of Laws with R.A. 1080; 2 years in position/s involving management and supervision |
| **Staff Development Specialist**<br>CFMO – Zamboanga City | 1 | BS / AB in Psychology or any relevant degree; 3 years relevant experience; Responsible for managing the Project's training activities for the FMO Staff and supporting the capacity building activities. |
| **Livelihood Specialist**<br>CFMO – Zamboanga City | 1 | BS in Economics or any degree relevant to the job; 3 years relevant experience on Human Resource Development; Responsible for livelihood subcomponent of the project oversees relevant service providers implementing the activities of sub component |
| **Institutional Development Specialist**<br>CFMO – Zamboanga City | 1 | AB in Political Science or any degree relevant to the job; 3 years relevant experience; Responsible for the Project's institutional strengthening and governance component |
| **Community Development Specialist**<br>CFMO – Zamboanga | 1 | BS in Social Work or Community Development or any degree relevant to the job; 2 years of relevant experience; responsible for supporting Project Community Development assistance component |
| **Area Community Development Specialist**<br>AFMO – Marawi City | 1 | BS in Social Work or Community Development or any degree relevant to the job; 2 years of relevant experience; responsible for supporting Project Community Development assistance component |
| **Environmental Specialist**<br>CFMO – Zamboanga City | 1 | BS in Environment Engineering or any degree relevant to the job; 3 years of relevant experience; responsible for the Project's environmental safeguard. |
| **Administrative Officer**<br>AFMO-Marawi City | 1 | BS in Public Administration / Accountancy or any degree relevant to the job; 2 years relevant experience; Responsible for the day-to-day administrative service functions to include property and supply management |
| **MIS Specialist**<br>AFMO – Marawi City | 1 | BS in Computer Science / Management Information System / Information Technology or any degree relevant to the job, 2 years relevant experience; Responsible for the AFMO MIS requirement |
| **Accountant**<br>AFMO – Marawi City | 1 | Bachelor's Degree in Commerce or Business Administration Major in Accounting; 2 years relevant experience; responsible for the AFMO's accounting function. |
| **Cost Analyst**<br>AFMO – Marawi City<br>AFMO – Jolo | 2 | Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; 3 years relevant experience. |
| **AutoCad Operator**<br>CFMO – Zamboanga City;<br>AFMO – Island,<br>AFMO – Mainland | 3 | Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering / Architecture; 3 years relevant experience. |
| **Secretary**<br>AFMO – Marawi City | 1 | Bachelor's Degree; 2 years relevant experience |
| **Municipal Facilitator** | 35 | BS in Social Work or Community Development or any degree relevant to the job; 3 years of relevant experience. |

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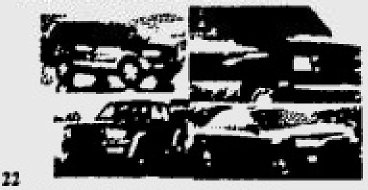

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The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

**Project** : Supply & Delivery
1.5 million decks of Playing Cards
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**Source of Funds** : Internally Funded

One suppliers (foreign or local) duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from December 12, 2003 to January 7, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

**Pre-Bid Conference** : January 7, 2004 (10:00 a.m.)
**Submission & Opening of Bids** : January 28, 2004 (10:00 a.m.) (Envelopes 1 & 2)
**Submission & Opening of Bids** : March 29, 2004 (10:00 a.m. onwards) (Envelope 3)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder found to have submitted falsified documents and/or information, to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

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Chairperson, BAC-2

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# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* Louie C. Camino

# Film fest about politics, cries Jeturian

## *'It has never been about good movies'*

**By Jocelyn Valle,** *Contributor;* **and Nini Valera**

"A SHAM."

That was how acclaimed director Jeffrey Jeturian called the selection of the seven movies that will be shown when the Metro Manila Film Festival opens on Christmas Day and the two others—including his own "Bridal Shower"—on Jan. 1.

"The film fest has never been about good movies," Jeturian declared last Friday at the press conference for "Bridal Shower" from Seiko Films. "It's all about politics. And this year is no exception."

Jeturian's movie is a sex comedy starring Dina Bonnevie, Cherry Pie Picache and Francine Prieto. Jeturian is also the creator of the award-winning, highly praised "Tuhog."

"They (film fest committee) don't want to admit it but they had other considerations," the young filmmaker told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Who are in the committee and who are in the casts (of the other entries)? If they considered the genres, they would have been fair if they chose two dramas, two comedies two fantasies and one horror."

To open with "Bridal Shower" on Jan. 1 is Erik Matti's "Gagamboy" from M&Q Productions. The seven others open on Dec. 25: "Captain Barbell" about a comic book superhero, Premiere Productions; "Crying Ladies," a black comedy, Unitel Productions; "Fantastic Man," Octoarts Films and M-Zet Productions; "Filipinas," a family drama, Viva Films; "Malik-Mata," a suspense-horror movie, Canary Films; "Mano

FILM/ C2

**SEX COMEDY.** The Jan. 1 playdate of "Bridal Shower," starring (from left) Juancho Valentino, Francine Prieto, Christian Vasquez and Douglas Robinson, might be a blessing in disguise, says its director.

**THEY'RE BAAACK!** Ken Zhu, Vic Zhuo, Jerry Yan and Vaness Wu go back to the Fort open field.

**All of F4 coming for Dec. 26 show** /C8

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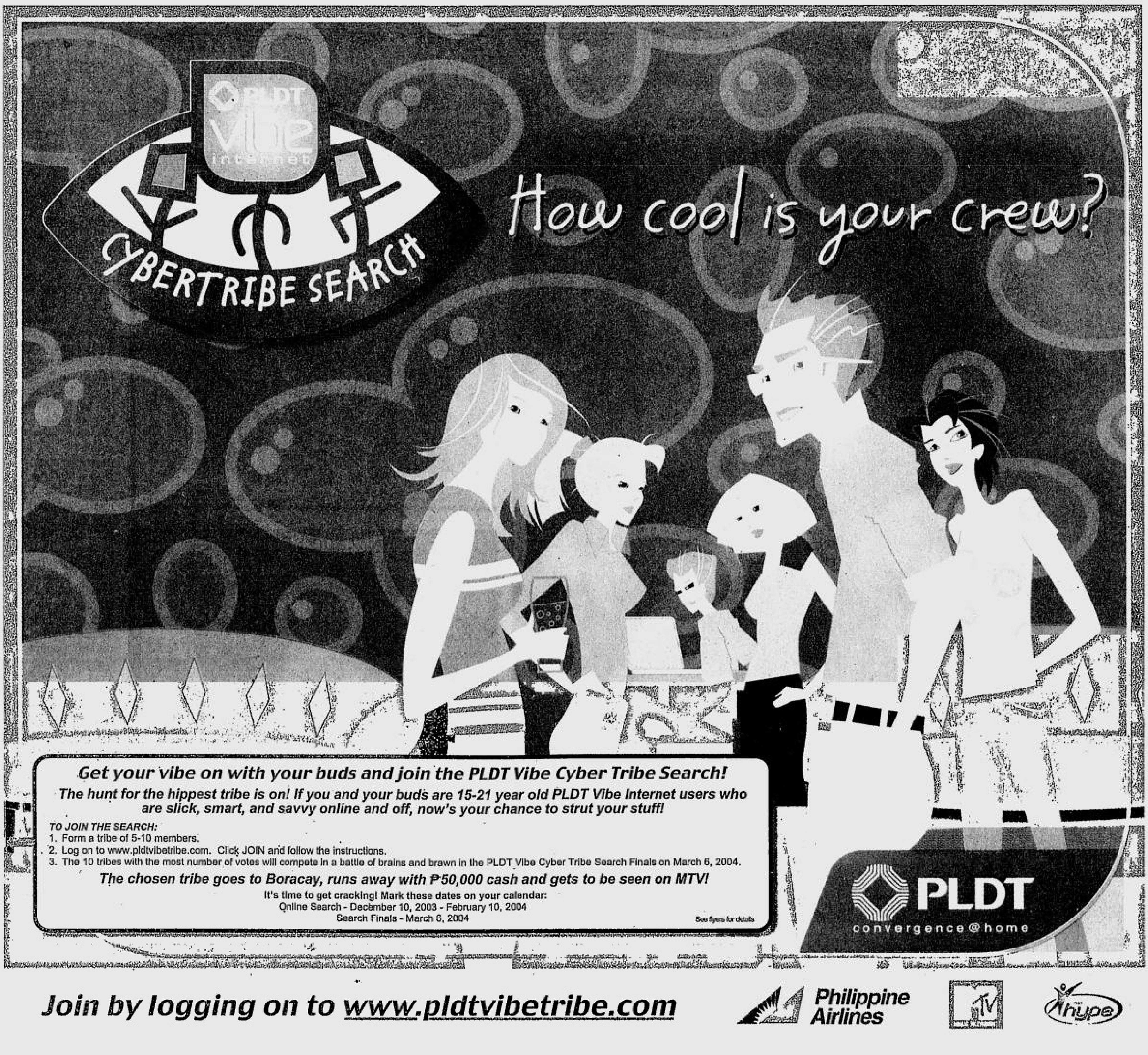

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Philippine Airlines MTV hype

# Early bird

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

THE 2003 Oscars are being handed out earlier than usual next year, on Feb. 29, but the National Board of Review has again beaten them to the punch. It's only December, but the NBR has already awarded what it feels is the most outstanding work in the movies in 2003. The big winner is **Clint Eastwood**'s "Mystic River," voted best film by 150 members of the screening committee and the 12-person board of judges.

"Mystic River" tells the story of a neighborhood that shares the traumatic repercussions of the murder of a young woman. It focuses on three boyhood friends who drift apart, but come together again as a result of the young woman's death.

Eastwood's movie is followed by the **Tom Cruise** starrer, "The Last Samurai," "The Station Agent," "21 Grams," and "House of Sand and Fog." Plus: "Lost in Translation," "Cold Mountain," "In America," "Seabiscuit," and "Master and Commander."

The NBR has been around for 95 years, and has an eclectic membership, which includes filmmakers, educators and historians.

In general, the Oscars don't reflect the NBR's annual choices, but its "early bird" decisions serve an important function because it helps set the parameters for the film awards groups that follow its lead. For instance, "The Last Samurai" is shaping up as a popular and critical hit, because it made an impressive $24 million on its opening weekend and has gotten some glowing reviews.

Other NBR citations: best actor, **Sean Penn** for his performance in "Mystic River" and "21 Grams"; best actress, **Diane Keaton** for "Something's Gotta Give," and best director, "Samurai's" **Edward Zwick**.

## 'E.T.' on Star Movies

AT 9 p.m. on Dec. 14, Star Movies is screening **Steven Spielberg**'s "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial," marking the 20th anniversary of the sci-fi classic. The new anniversary edition includes never-before-seen footage, computer-generated enhancements, and a digitally remixed soundtrack, all supervised by Spielberg. The film stars **Dee Wallace Stone, Henry Thomas,** and **Drew Barrymore** when she was only 6 years old.

## Yuletide gigs

PRAIA de Ipanema Bar and Restaurant at Eastwood City showcases these entertainers this Christmas season: Dec. 16, **Nino Alejandro** and his trio. Essence Band with **Kiko Versoza** on Tuesdays, **Champagne Morales** on Wednesdays, K 24/7 with Jazzi on Thursdays, and **DJ Coki** on Fridays.

At 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 27, there will be a post-Christmas party with DJs **Ronald, Reggie** and **Mike** demonstrating their music-mixing wizardry. Call 421-7764.

## 'Cruelty'

THE CBCP's Cinema (Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation) evaluates "Intolerable Cruelty" as technically above-average and morally acceptable:

"All the technical aspects of the film work to make this comedy an unqualified success. The actors (**George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones,** etc.) are right for their roles, the music and sound effects are perfectly chosen and timed, the cinematography is polished, and the dialogue is matchless.

"The witty, repartee between the two leads is particularly engaging, and they have good chemistry together.

"The story's ending is a real surprise. The entertaining movie has a very positive message: In the conflict between love and money, love wins!"

## 'Thank You'

STONE Temple Pilots has its "greatest hits" compilation, "Thank You." The album showcases 13 of the band's most popular songs.

They include "Plush," "Interstate Love Song," and "Days of the Week." Bonus tracks are the previously unreleased "All in the Suit that You Wear" and an acoustic version of "Plush."

## NGC flies high

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel is marking the 100th anniversary of powered flight with a series of specials. On Dec. 16 at 9 p.m., "Designer Flight No. 1" invites viewers to fly in style with **John Travolta**, and near the speed of sound with director **Sydney Pollack** and singer **Carly Simon**.

$30 million will secure one of the newest and fastest planes in the world. Come aboard Boeing 767 and witness its transformation from a dreary "green" jet to a customized "dream jet" fit for a king.

Tour the salons of private planes with their exotic wood paneling, high-tech toys and plush throne-like seating—from **Elvis Presley**'s crushed velvet queen-sized bed with gold-plated seat belt to Hugh Hefner's "Big Bunnie Jet's" screening room!

JETURIAN

# Film fest about...

From page C1

Po 2," another family drama, Regal Films, and "Homecoming," yet another family drama, Teamwork Productions.

Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo leads the screening committee that assigned the playdates to the movies. His son Christopher is featured in "Captain Barbell," "Fantastic Man" and "Homecoming."

As in last year, the two movies that earned the least money among the first seven would be pulled out of the theaters on Jan. 1 to give way to "Gagamboy" and "Bridal Shower."

A slot in the first week of the festival is very much coveted by the participants, since the Christmas season traditionally means the biggest box-office earnings.

## Similar choices

After the announcement of the playdates of the nine entries last Friday, director Joey Romero explained to INQUIRER Entertainment that the screening committee, of which he's a member, abided by these criteria: creativity and style, 50 percent; commercial viability, 30 percent, and exemplifying Filipino culture and history, 20 percent.

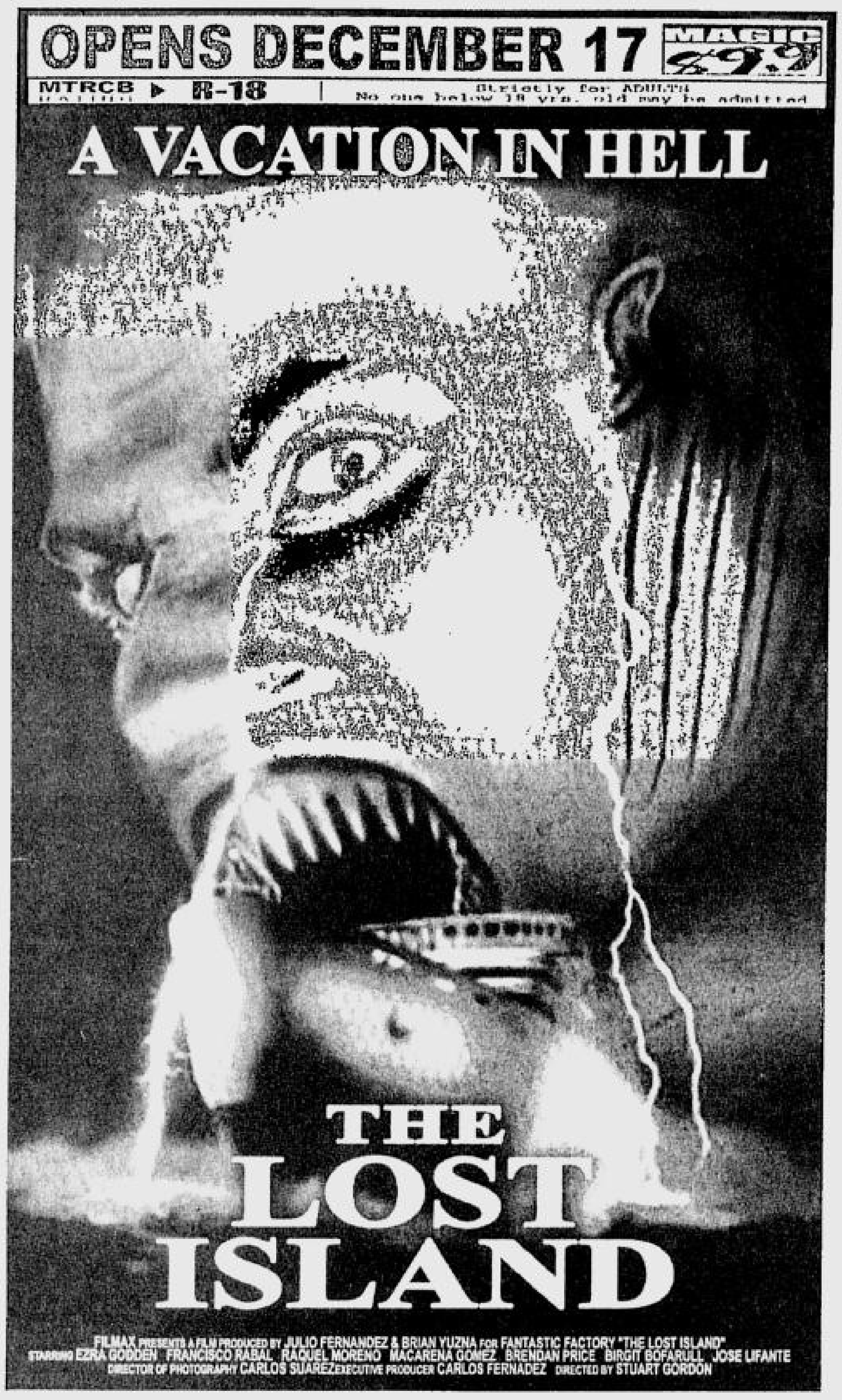
"We also considered having a balanced lineup," Romero added. "It turned out that we had similar choices. 'Bridal Shower' was *medyo* adult. As for 'Gagamboy,' there are already three fantasy movies and we don't want any of these to suffer. It doesn't mean, though, that they are inferior."

Aside from Romero, eight other entertainment industry figures decided on the playdates: Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo, who's also the overall festival chair; Manuel Nuque of the Philippine Motion Pictures Producers Association; Dominic Du, Greater Manila Theaters Association; Marcus Ng, Metro Manila Theaters Association; Ma-an Hontiveros; Serge Remonde, RPN-9; Caloy de Leon, Film Development Foundation Inc., and professor Orly Molina.

Regal Films' publicity and production consultant, Dolly Guevarra, said the people behind "Gagamboy" had expected that the Vhong Navarro starrer would get Jan. 1.

"As shown in the last film fest, it's a good playdate," said Guevarra. "Mother (Lily Monteverde)

FILM/ C7



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THE LOST ISLAND
FILMAX PRESENTS A FILM PRODUCED BY JULIO FERNANDEZ & BRIAN YUZNA FOR FANTASTIC FACTORY "THE LOST ISLAND"
STARRING EZRA GODDEN FRANCISCO RABAL RAQUEL MORENO MACARENA GOMEZ BRENDAN PRICE BIRGIT BOFARULL JOSE LIFANTE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CARLOS SUAREZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CARLOS FERNADEZ DIRECTED BY STUART GORDON

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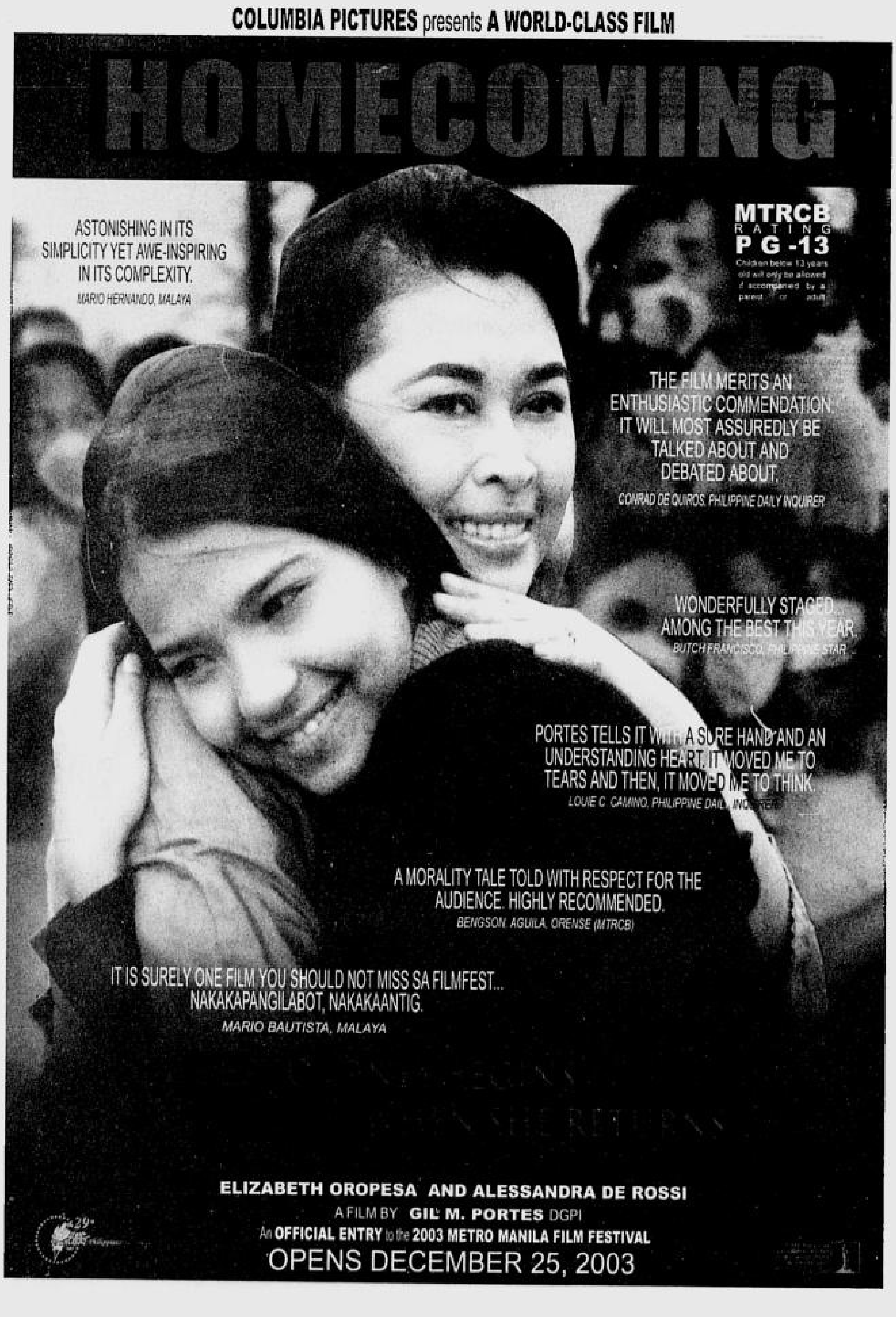

HOMECOMING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
ASTONISHING IN ITS SIMPLICITY YET AWE-INSPIRING IN ITS COMPLEXITY. MARIO HERNANDO, MALAYA
THE FILM MERITS AN ENTHUSIASTIC COMMENDATION. IT WILL MOST ASSUREDLY BE TALKED ABOUT AND DEBATED ABOUT. CONRAD DE QUIROS, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WONDERFULLY STAGED... AMONG THE BEST THIS YEAR. BUTCH FRANCISCO, PHILIPPINE STAR
PORTES TELLS IT WITH A SURE HAND AND AN UNDERSTANDING HEART. IT MOVED ME TO TEARS AND THEN, IT MOVED ME TO THINK. LOUIE C. CAMINO, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A MORALITY TALE TOLD WITH RESPECT FOR THE AUDIENCE. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. BENGSON, AGUILA, ORENSE (MTRCB)
IT IS SURELY ONE FILM YOU SHOULD NOT MISS SA FILMFEST... NAKAKAPANGILABOT, NAKAKAANTIG. MARIO BAUTISTA, MALAYA
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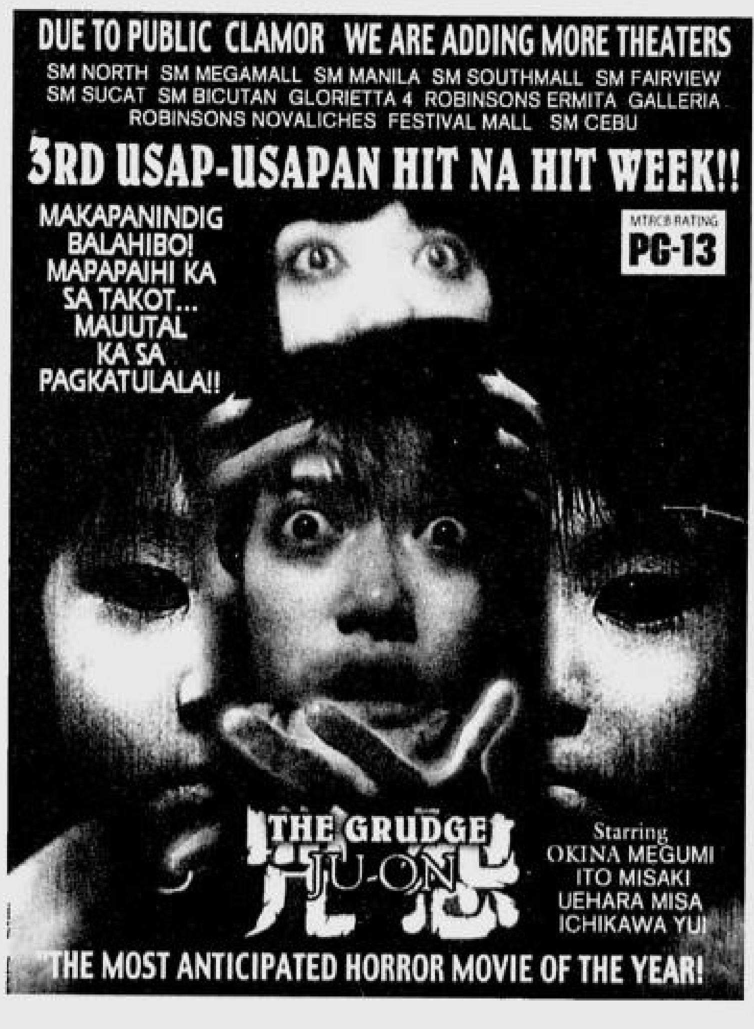

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# Kapuso, kayo ang star ng aming Pasko!

## 7 Pamasko

Sunod-sunod na taos-pusong handog namin para sa inyo!

### 1 The Gift of Inspiration

Magpakailanman

THURSDAYS 9:30PM

[illegible]

### 2 The Gift of Laughter & Joy

GMA Kris Kringle

Text Kringle and win

[illegible]

### 3 The Gift of Friendship & Love

Click Christmas Episode
(Dec. 20, 5:00PM)
[illegible]

Kakabakaba Adventures Holiday Episode
(Dec. 20 & 27, 9:30PM)
[illegible]

Love to Love Christmas Special
(Dec. 21, 2:00PM)
[illegible] LOVE 2 LOVE.

### 4 The Gift of Bonding & Togetherness

Salu-salong Krismas

DECEMBER 21 9:30PM
GMA gathers its family of stars for one dazzling evening in a 2 1/2-hour Christmas musical extravaganza!

Countdown to '04

DECEMBER 31, 11:00PM
Welcome the New Year [illegible] on GMA amidst the Amazing World of Lights and Lanterns live from the CCP grounds.

### 5 The Gift of Genuine Sharing

DECEMBER 20, 2:30PM

DECEMBER 21, 3:00PM

STARTALK & S-FILES back-to-back Christmas Specials
[illegible]

Partners MEL & JAY Christmas Party
(Dec. 21, 3:30PM)
[illegible]

### 6 The Gift of Hope & Victory

STARSTRUCK Christmas Surprise Week
(Dec. 22-26, 8:30PM)
Starstruck Survivors are in for a surprise with the show's unique twist [illegible]

Wowowee / Ko Lang!
[illegible]

Dec. 27 [illegible] Ko Lang [illegible]

P1,000,000.00 Videoke Challenge

K! The P1,000,000 Videoke Challenge Celebrity Specials
(All Sundays of December 7:00PM)
Christmas has never been brighter as your favorite stars [illegible] sing [illegible] K!

### 7 The Gift of Sincerity & True Service

**Loboc Choir Feature**
(Dec. 22, 11:30PM)
I-Witness discovers the roots of the Loboc Choir, the Philippine version of the Vienna Boys Choir who did the country proud in international shores.

**Special Delivery Part Two**
At the end of 2002, all the I-Witness hosts came together to feature special stories of birth. A year after, each host revisits the child they featured exactly a year ago.

**JESSICA SOHO REPORTS Europe Special**
(Dec. 24, 11:30PM)
[illegible] JSR takes you to the [illegible] of Europe with real-life success stories of Filipinos who made it in the continent.

**Pasko sa Mata ng mga Bata Special**
(Dec. 25, 11:30PM)
[illegible] Francisco, Michael V., Susan Enriquez, Arnold and Robert Alejandro.

**SAKSI sa 2004 GMA News Countdown**
(Dec. 31, 10:30PM)
[illegible]

**GMA NEWS Yearender: Pulitika, Palikula, Atbp.**
(Dec. 28 Sunday 9:30PM)
[illegible]

**GMA DOCUMENTARIES SPECIALS**
(All Tuesdays of December, 11:30PM)
[illegible]
Special Delivery Part [illegible] Dec. [illegible]

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF THE POPE** (Dec. 25, after Debate)
Catch the Pope's Christmas Message of hope and peace direct from the Vatican.

GMA

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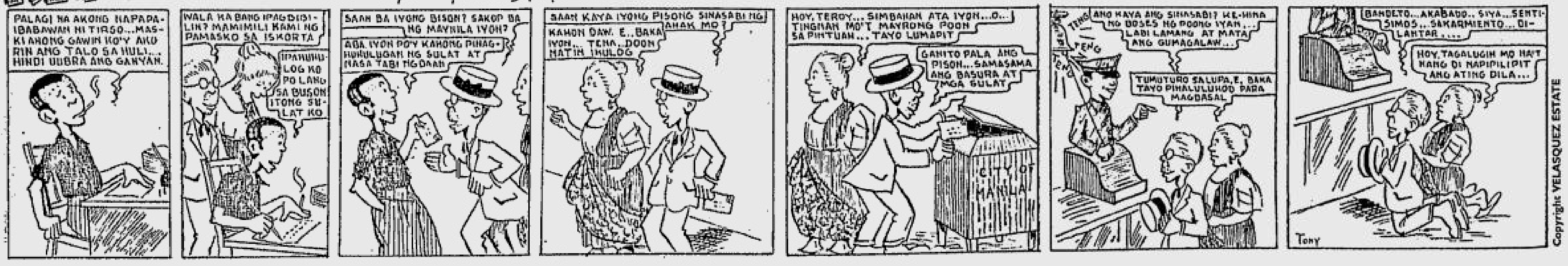
PALAGI NA AKONG NAPAPA-IBABAWAN NI TIRSO...MASKI ANONG GAWIN KO'Y AKO RIN ANG TALO SA HULI... HINDI UUBRA ANG GANYAN.
WALA KA BANG IPAGDIDILIN? MAMIMILI KAMI NG PAMASKO SA ISKORTA
IPAHUHULOG KO PO LANG SA BUSON ITONG SULAT KO.
SAAN BA IYONG BISON? SAKOP BA NG MAYNILA IYON?
ADA IYON PO'Y KAHONG PINAGHUHULUGAN NG SULAT AT NASA TABI NG DAAN
SAAN KAYA IYONG PISONG SINASABI NG ANAK MO?
KAHON DAW. E.. BAKA IYON... TENA.. DOON NATIN IHULOG
HOY, TEROY... SIMBAHAN ATA IYON...O... TINGNAN MO'T MAYRONG POON SA PINTUAN... TAYO LUMAPIT
GANITO PALA ANG PISON...SAMASAMA ANG BASURA AT MGA SULAT
CITY OF MANILA
ANO KAYA ANG SINASABI? KE-HINA NG BOSES NG POONG IYAN... LABI LAMANG AT MATA ANG GUMAGALAW...
TENG
PENG
TENG
TUMUTURO SA LUPA, E, BAKA TAYO PINALULUHOD PARA MAGDASAL
BANDETO...AKABADO.. SIYA...SENTISIMOS.. SAKARMIENTO...DILANTAR....
HOY, TAGALUGIN MO HA'T KANG DI NAPIPILIPIT ANG ATING DILA...
TONY

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# Getting reacquainted with the Appeals Committee

**JUICE**

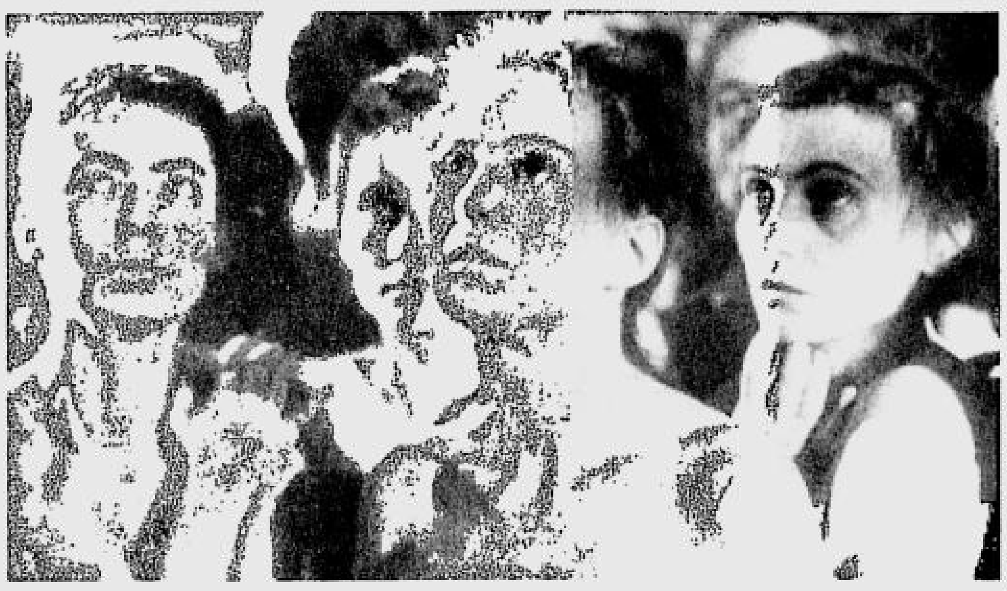
*Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon*

IF YOU haven't heard of the Appeals Committee, fret not, you're one of the very many.

Because, although it's been there since FVR's time, and although it has caused guardians of morality to stomp the ground madly more than once, it isn't the kind of thing anyone particularly remembers, until maybe another "Schindler's List" comes along.

That, by the way, is the movie that created it.

In FVR's time, that **Steven Spielberg** movie almost didn't make it to local moviehouses, or if it had, would've done so in mangled form. The Movie Television Review and Classification Board, then under beauty-titlist **Etta Mendez**, had ruled that scenes in the movie violated its implementing rules and regulations.



TEST CASE. Spielberg's "Schindler's List"

Violation one: a pumping scene, lasting seconds, where **Liam Neeson as Schindler** is making love to his mistress in the confines of his home. Violation two: a breast-and-balls exposure scene, lasting seconds, where the prisoners of Auschwitz are stripped to their skins before being brought to slaughter at the gas chamber.

The public raised hell against the cuts, and eventually the MTRCB relented—but only so much.

Itş final ruling: There being no historical record to show that the real-life Schindler was pumping his mistress in his home, and there being an MTRCB ruling disallowing pumping onscreen, the scene was to stay deleted. Ruling two: There being historical photos showing men and women being disrobed before being gassed, the scene could stay.

The public was furious.

Ranting, it said: What lunacy was this that could think the Third Reich stripping naked emaciated and tortured Jews before gassing them to death could possibly arouse lust? And if a stupid rule against any and all pumping did exist, then change it, for god's sake!

Raving, it went on: What photo documentation was this that had to be found proving Schindler indeed pumped his mistress? Were the censors suggesting that they, who must engage in pumping themselves, actually immortalized those moments in pictures? As a normal turn of events? And how could they miss how the pumping-mistress scene was precisely there to show an uncaring, uninvolved Schindler in order to build up to the contrast of the man he would become?

Even worse for the MTRCB, Steven Spielberg got into the picture. If his film should suffer cuts anywhere in the world, said he—a Jew who with this film was paying tribute to fellow Jews who did not survive the Holocaust—then he was withdrawing the film from those countries in its entirety.

Still, a very dense Etta Mendez announced that if Spielberg refused to submit himself to local laws by rejecting her cuts, then he could just take his film with him. "Schindler" was, at bottom, getting an X.

## Office of the President

The uproar that had built up by then sent FVR into action. He decided to create the Appeals Committee, which he attached directly to the Office of the President, where it remains today.

In effect, the Appeals Committee became a government unit apart from, and higher than, the MTRCB, which movie producers could turn to if they chose to appeal a final ruling from the censors body. (A final ruling, incidentally, came after two MTRCB review committees have passed judgment on a film.)

It began, of course, with just one man reviewing the film: FVR's executive secretary **Teofisto Guingona**. And Guingona—bless him!—not only put back the deleted scenes of "Schindler's List," but rated the film PG-13, saying that younger folk should be watching this piece of history.

Eventually, it became a five-person committee, counting its chair, **Renato Corona**, today a Supreme Court justice.

## Ms Meryl Streep

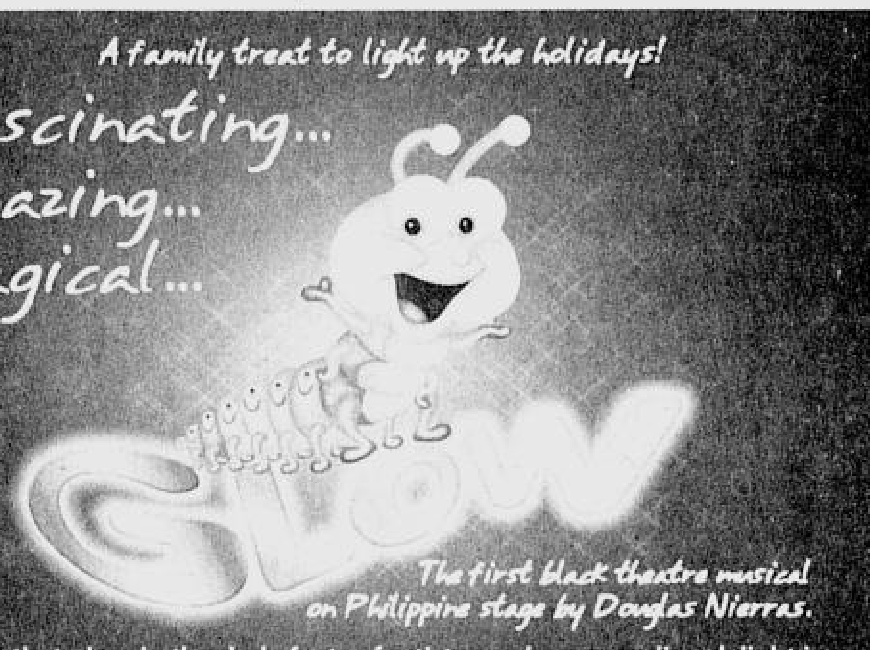
It was during this period that "Bridges of Madison County" became the next big test case of free expression in these parts.

This time, Etta's MTRCB wanted to excise from that beautiful film the scene where **Meryl Streep**, playing a middle-aged rural woman rediscovering her sensuality, gets up from the tub and examines her body. In the scene, Streep's pubic hairs show for a few seconds. A revolted Etta Mendez said women did not examine themselves like that, they simply stood in front of a mirror!, and so the scene had to go.

Now, apart from the film looking to be the most poignant love story **Clint Eastwood** had ever directed, it was also based on a much-praised book, and it starred the wonderful Streep, who, even if she tried, would be hard put to qualify as porno queen.

Once again, the public was galvanized into crying out loud. **Peque Gallaga**, writing an agitated piece for this paper, bellowed: "Get rid of the racoon Etta!" Others stuck to calling her "the whimsical and ultra-conservative Miss Caltex," in reference to the beauty title she had sought once upon a time.

"Bridges," however, never reached the Appeals Committee. FVR, seeing how the public had once again become thoroughly enraged,



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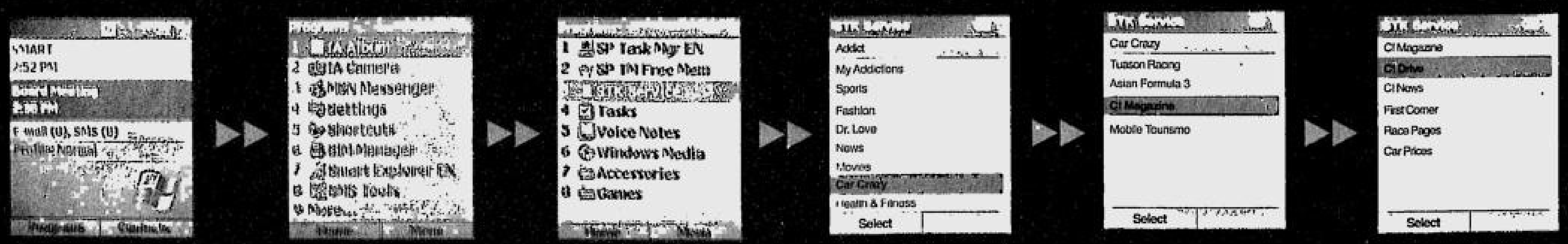
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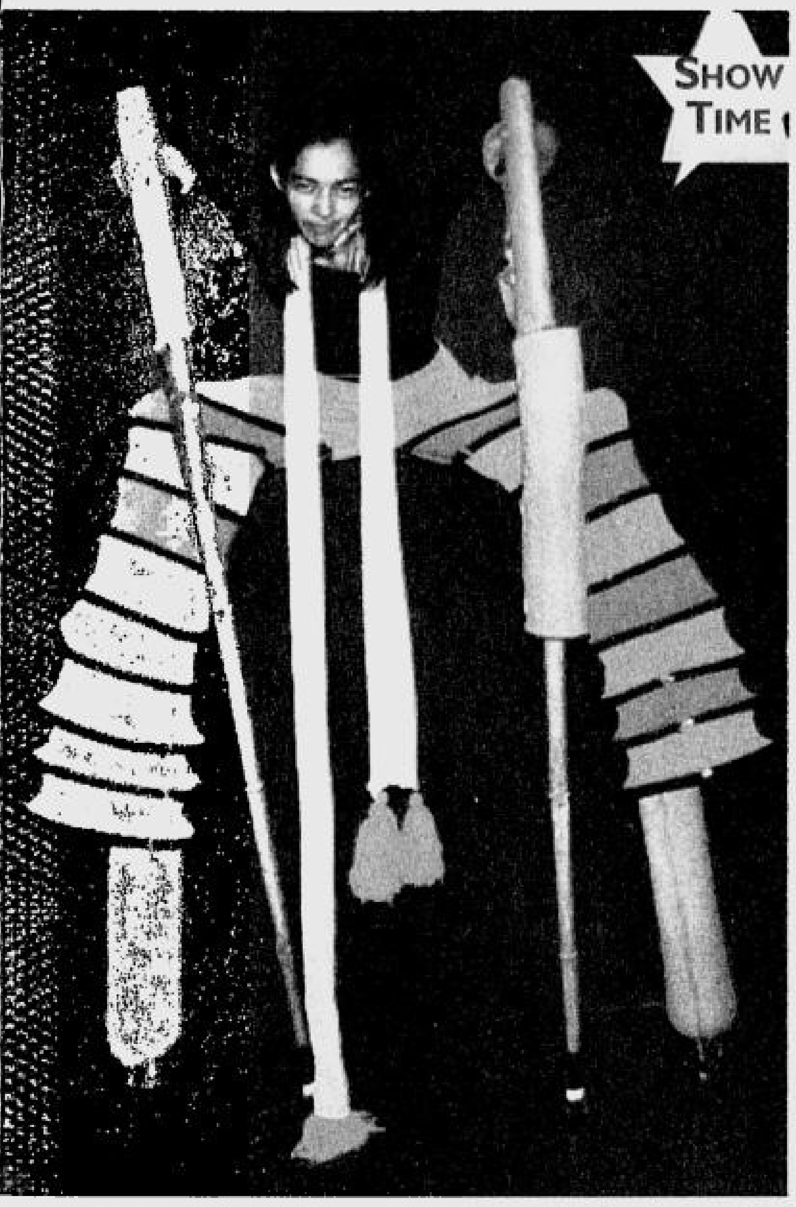
SHOW TIME

# 'Glow' in the dark



HIGH LIGHTS. During actual performance, the viewers see only the props and the colored costumes of the performers, not the performers themselves

**By Marge C. Enriquez**

IN A sea of darkness, performers drift imperceptibly to and fro, fluorescent forms gliding across the stage. With choreography set to original music, black light theater becomes a unique experience.

Every Monday and Tuesday of December, Onstage Theater at Greenbelt in Makati becomes a black box to showcase the first-ever black-light theater production, "Glow." The 75-minute musical, conceived and directed by Douglas Nierras, draws its genre from the famous black light theater of the Czech Republic.

Ultraviolet or black light theater was brought to the fore in the early '60s. Performers, fully dressed in black and holding props against a black background, were not seen by the audience, creating the illusion that the props moved by themselves. Its main purpose was not to evoke this special effect but to bring about scenes and mimes interpreted by the movement of props, costumes and the "invisible performers," in coordination with the music.

## Thrown, worn, twisted

"Physical theater goes beyond dance," says Nierras. "It employs the disciplines used in performance acrobatics, juggling, balancing. Handling the objects is very difficult. The magic here is that you don't know how it happens."

"Glow" has nine characters, both manipulated and worn by the dancers and movers. "They are thrown, worn, twisted around, everything," says Nierras.

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"Glow" is about a caterpillar that fights with its shadow which blocks his growth. After conquering the demonic shadow, the caterpillar emerges as a butterfly.

Nierras explains: "It is about the essence of finding beauty and truth in yourself, translated with a practical and visual approach. Glow comes from a fallen meteor. Flowers are agitated by his appearance. While Glow is trying to come out of the meteor, the flowers become bobs, anteater-like creatures. Glow asks, 'Who am I, what am I? Where did I come from?' He is confused. He realizes he has no identity. That night, Glow's shadow tells him to give up his search.

"He finds himself with the Swirls. One of them says, 'Your beauty is within yourself. Do not give up hope even if your shadow tells you otherwise.' Glow transforms into a beautiful butterfly. It is the search for the self, the search for the truth in you."

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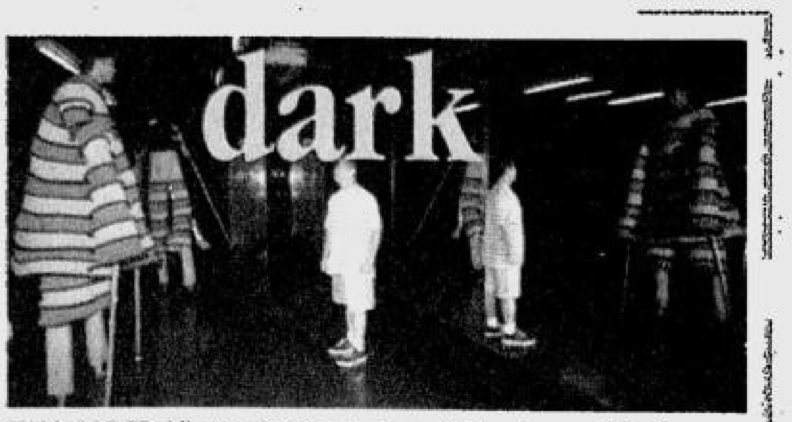

TALL ORDER. Nierras, in rehearsal, says "there is no retiring from art and performance"

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

## No retiring

Nierras believes that the viewers get value for money when they see a show that's eye candy but is also food for thought. Still, its selling point is the novelty.

The "Glow" script is by Ricky Lopez. Music is by Aji Manalo, productions design by Jo Tecson, lighting and technical direction by Jay Aranda, costumes by Liz Batoctoy and Eric Pineda.

Nierras confesses he never dreamed of being a director. He says his only ambition as a youth was to be a "bailarina." But in his constant striving for perfection, he found himself directing commercials, television and theater. He is also the movement director for the forthcoming film festival movie "Captain Barbell," having coached actors Bong Revilla and Albert Martinez in their flying sequences.

Turning 50 next year, Nierras is still peaking. Asked how he sees himself 10 years from now, he replies, "Pretty much being the same," he replies. "There is no retiring from art and performance. There is no retiring from living. Until I grow old, people will be asking me questions, asking me to teach or to be a reference."

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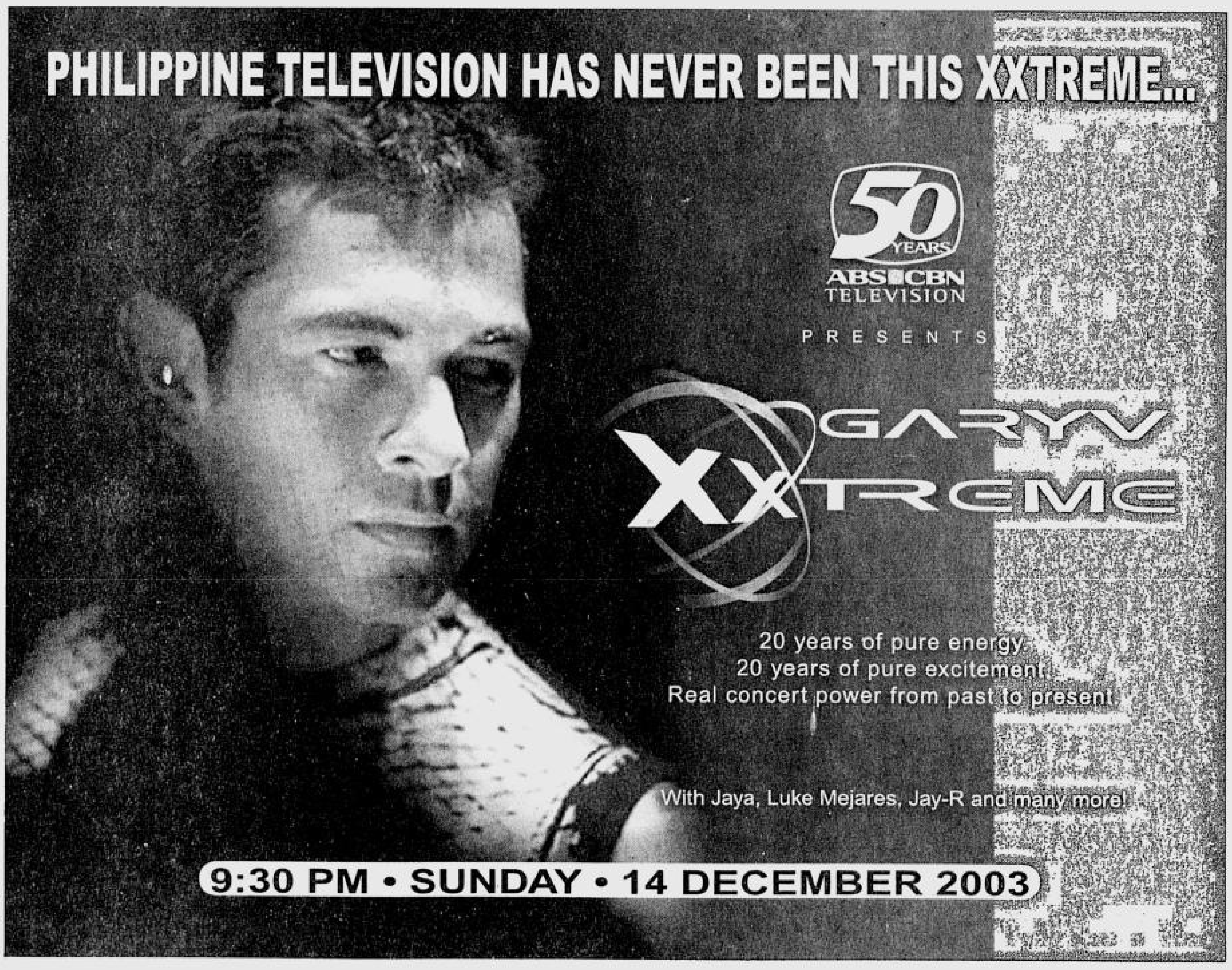

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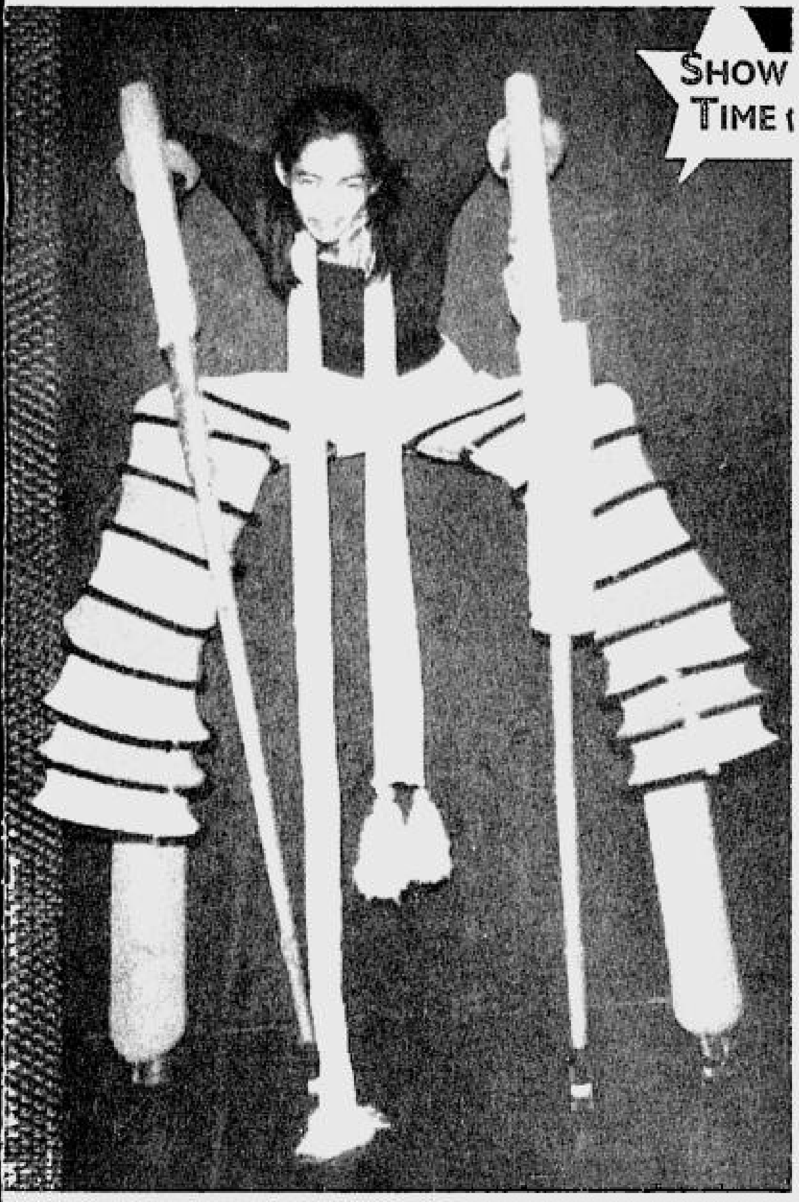

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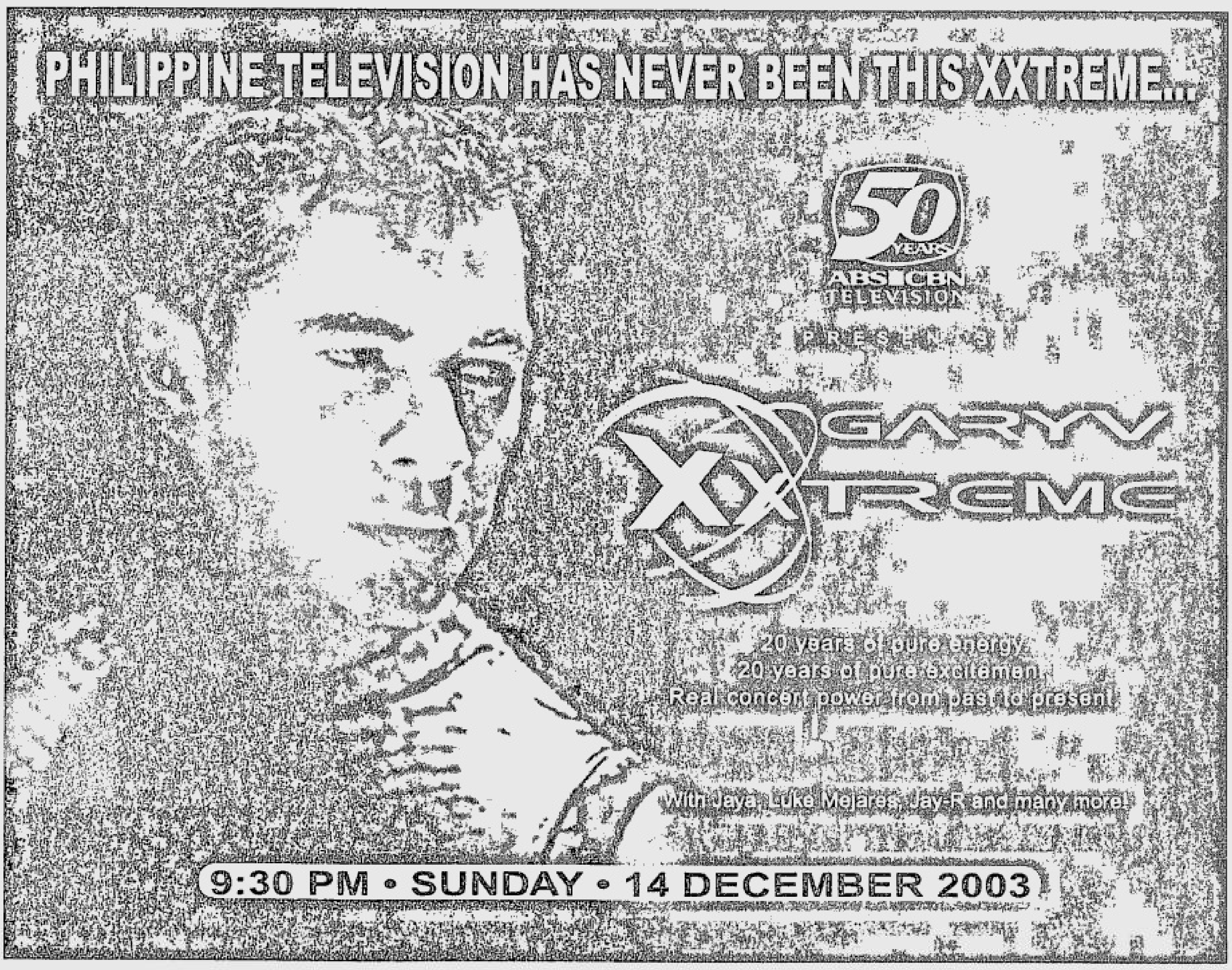
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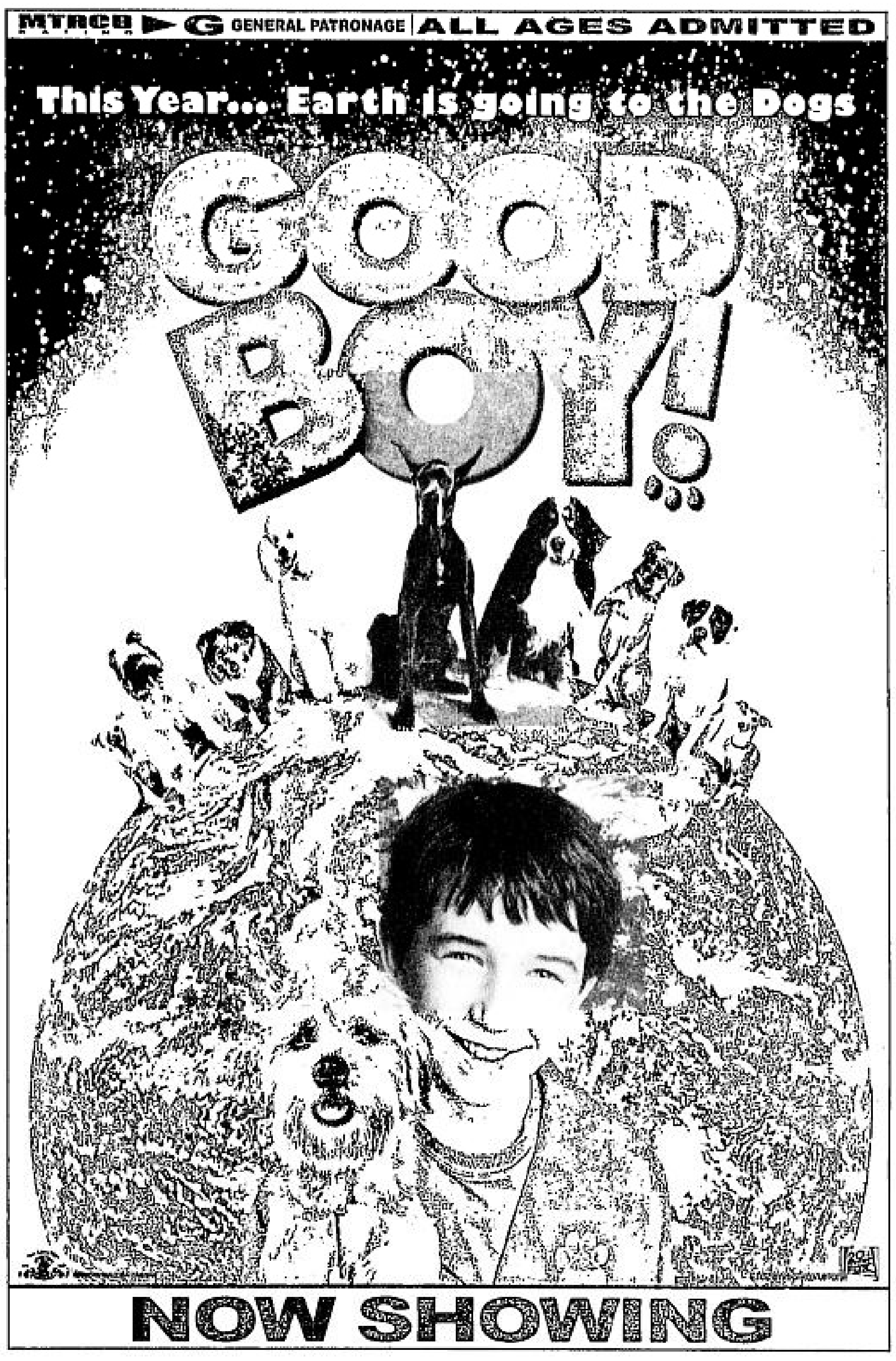

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Mars Ravelo's
Captain Barbell
Directed by Mac C. Alejandre OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FEST
VIVA

# Film fest...

From page C2

likes Jan. 1."

M&Q Productions, which produced "Gagamboy," is a sister company of Mother Lily's Regal Films.

In the previous festival, the Jan. 1 openers "Lastikman" and "Spirit Warriors" outgrossed those shown on Dec. 25, with the exception of "Mano Po."

"Dec. 25 is still the best playdate because Christmas Day is really for the whole family, especially the kids," said "Lastikman" producer Orly Ilacad of Octoarts. This year, he has another superhero flick, "Fantastic Man," again starring coproducer Vic Sotto. He's also crossing his fingers for the success of "Malik-Mata," since its producer, Canary Films, is Octoarts' sister company.

Perennial film fest participant Bong Revilla agreed with him.

"It's on Christmas Day that the family goes out to watch movies together," said Sotto, who plays Captain Barbell.

Dina Bonnevie of "Bridal Shower" prefers Jan. 1 for different reasons.

"*Ayokong tapatan ang* movie *ni* Vic," she said, referring to her ex-husband. "I also don't want to have friction again with 'Mano Po 2' (where she was supposed to play a major role)."

Jeturian said he hopes the situation will be a blessing in disguise.

"Compared with other productions, we had the least time to prepare," he said.

The original main cast had Rosanna Roces, Rufa Mae Quinto and Diana Zubiri. Since Francine is the only sexy star in the final cast, the treatment changed a bit. "It's still a sex comedy but it's not erotic anymore," he said.

In the previous festival, "Spirit Warriors II" and "Lastikman" were shown on Jan. 1, when "Mano Po," "Dekada '70," "Agimat," "Alamat ng Lawin," "Lapu-Lapu" and "Home Along da Riber" had been showing for a week.

But just like the last two movies last year, "Gagamboy" and "Bridal Shower" will still compete with the other entries for this year's awards. Last year, "Spirit Warriors II" won the third best picture award, beating even the other movies shown on the regular festival playdate.

Last year, the decision to show "Spirit Warriors II" and "Lastikman" later than the rest drew criticisms.

Malonzo said the playdates could be beneficial to "Bridal Shower" and "Gagamboy" since many Metro Manila residents spend the holidays in the provinces during Christmas.

Last year, "Lastikman" and "Spirit Warriors II" reported higher revenues than the entries shown earlier. "Lastikman" had the highest opening day gross. ***With a report from Edson Tandoc Jr.***

Hope. Joy. Love.
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Mano Po 2
MY HOME
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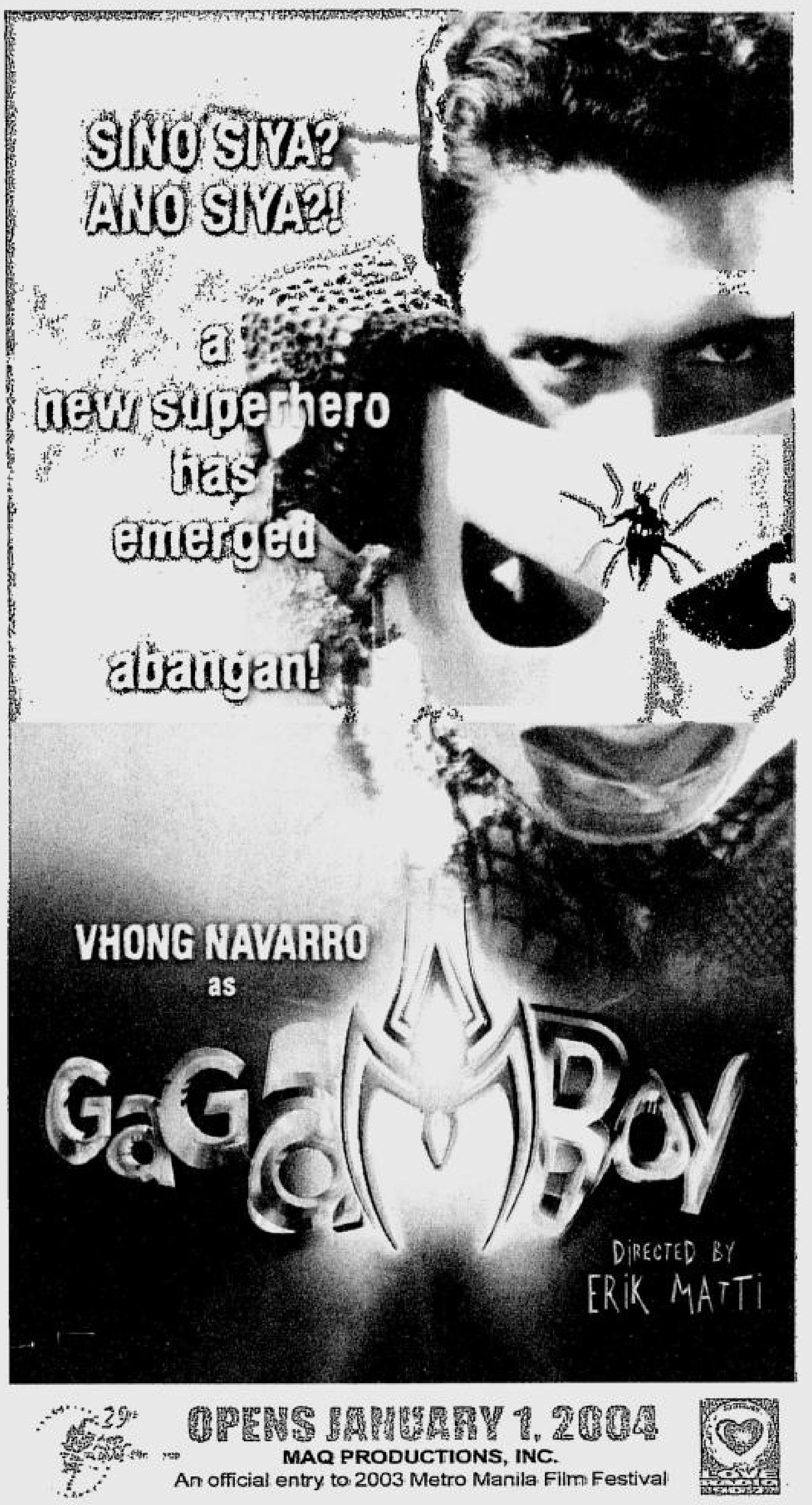
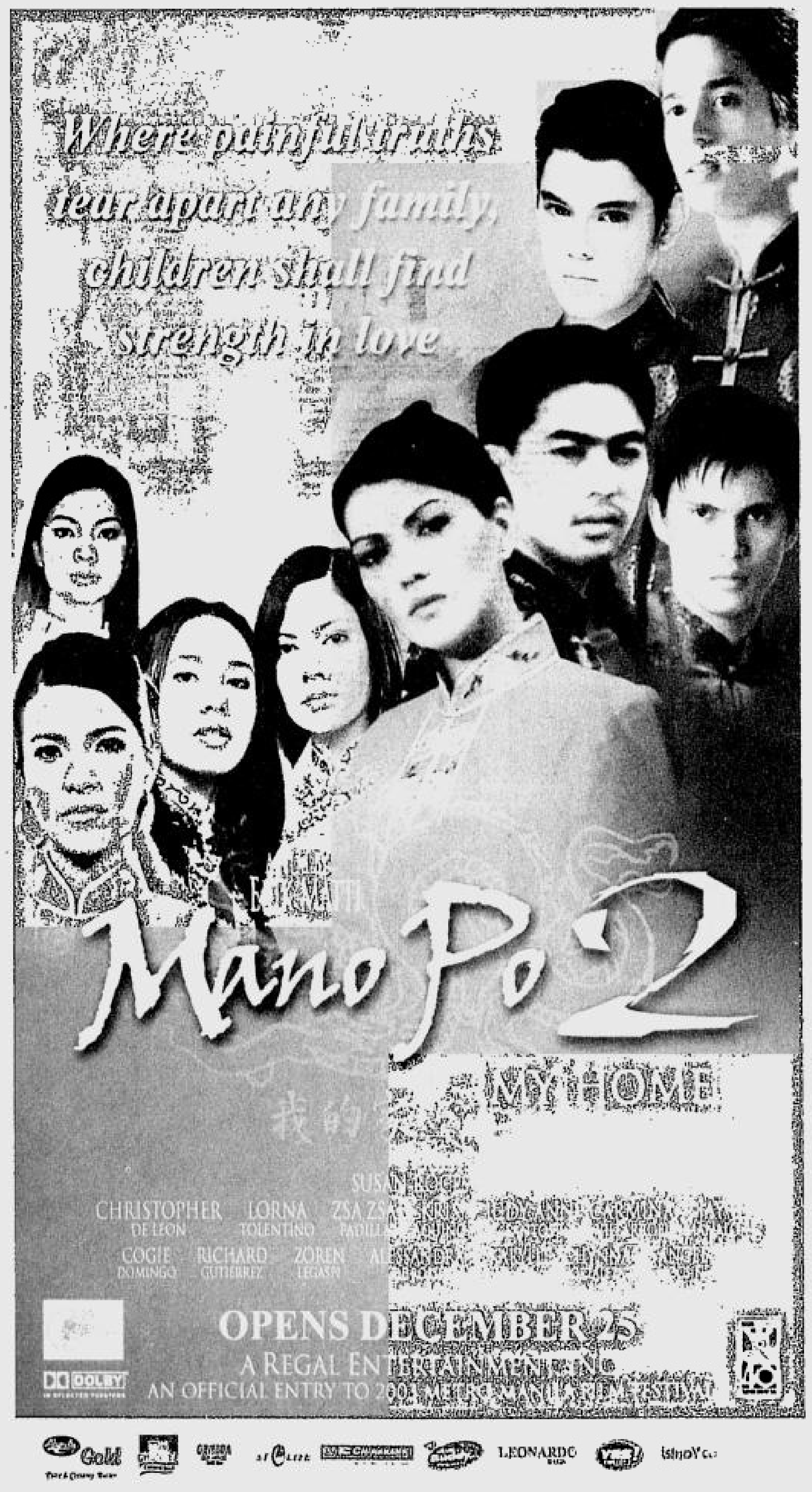

SINO SIYA?
ANO SIYA?!
a new superhero has emerged
abangan!
VHONG NAVARRO
as
GaGaMBoy
DIRECTED BY
ERIK MATTI
29th
OPENS JANUARY 1, 2004
MAQ PRODUCTIONS, INC.
An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival


Where painful truths tear apart any family, children shall find strength in love
Mano Po 2
MY HOME
我的
SUSAN ROCES
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
LORNA TOLENTINO
ZSA ZSA PADILLA
COGIE DOMINGO
RICHARD GUTIERREZ
ZOREN LEGASPI
DOLBY
OPENS DECEMBER 25
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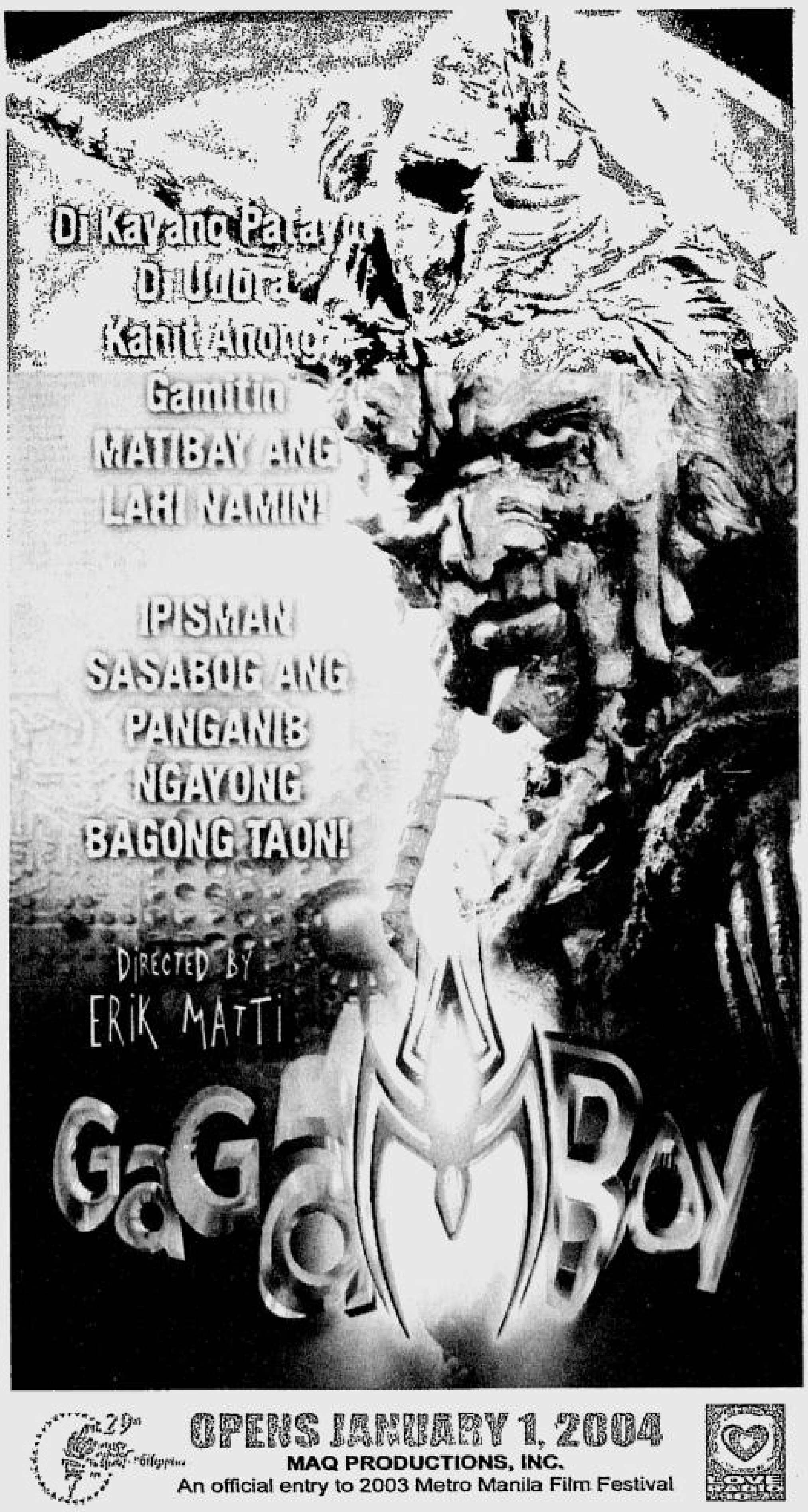
LEONARDO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IPISMAN
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DIRECTED BY
ERIK MATTI
GaGaMBoy
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MAQ PRODUCTIONS, INC.
An official entry to 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival

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# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

THEY'RE BAAACK! And they're performing again at the Fort open field.

## All of F4 back for Dec. 26 show

YOU think you've seen the last of the sensational Taiwanese boy band F4 in Manila this year?

You haven't.

First-time promoters Dai Bei Productions Inc. is bringing the phenomenal pop quartet to Manila on Dec. 26 in a full-length concert at the Fort Bonifacio Open Field.

This time, all four handsome young Taiwanese will be coming at the same time.

The concert event of the year, "F4 Live! Happy New Year 2004," will be the first time in two years that all four members—Jerry Yan, Vic Zhuo, Ken Zhu and Vaness Wu—are performing in one show together.

The boy band zoomed to fame after their TV series "Meteor Garden" hit it big internationally.

Chito Cabalu of East-West Global Entertainment, the firm that will manage the concert, said that so far, the concert's first two prime areas, where ticket prices are P20,000 and P15,000, have been mostly reserved or bought by about 500 F4 fans from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and Indonesia.

Still available at Ticketworld (891-5610) are tickets for P10,000, P8,000, P7,500, P5,000, P3,000, P2,500, P1,500 and P600.

Two of the F4 guys, Jerry Yan and Vic Zhuo, were guests at the "Happy 50TV" concert of ABS-CBN last Nov. 29, also at the Fort Bonifacio Open Field.

The two others, Vaness Wu and Ken Zhu, performed at the Philsports football field in Pasig City last September.

In their Dec. 26 show, the pop idols from Taiwan will sing their hit singles "Can't Lose You," "Season of Fireworks," and "Can't Help Fallin'" from the phenomenally popular chinovela "Meteor Garden," shown on week nights on ABS-CBN.

Tickets are also available at all National Bookstores nationwide. For more details, call 891-5610.

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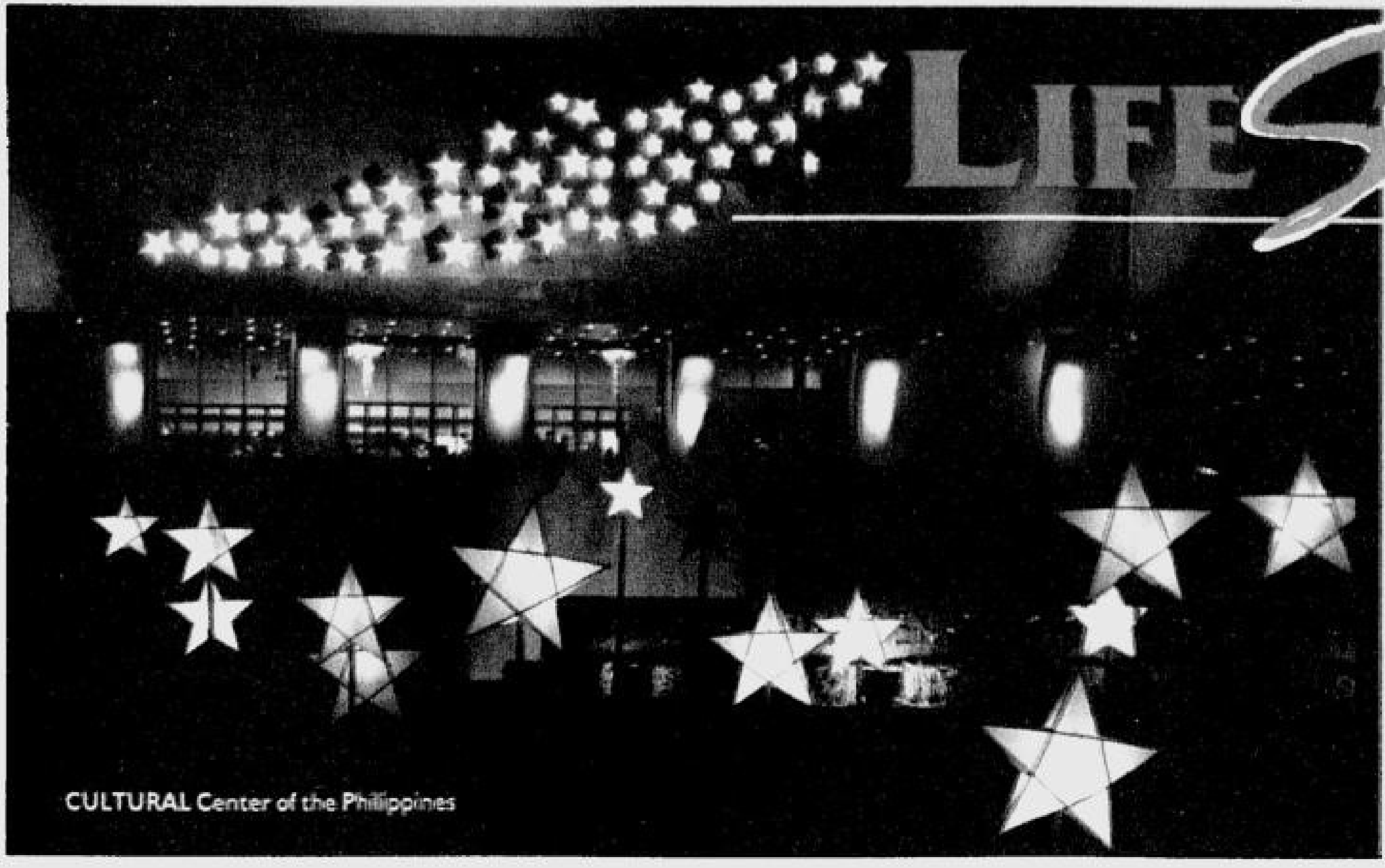
*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



CULTURAL Center of the Philippines

# Lights and colors on parade

Story on page D2

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Sumptuous ideas on what to prepare for Christmas Day** /E1

**Finally, TV's fave sweethearts say 'I do'** /I1

**Glow and glisten this season** /J2

**Sea Princess sprouts fairy wings** /K1

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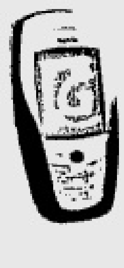

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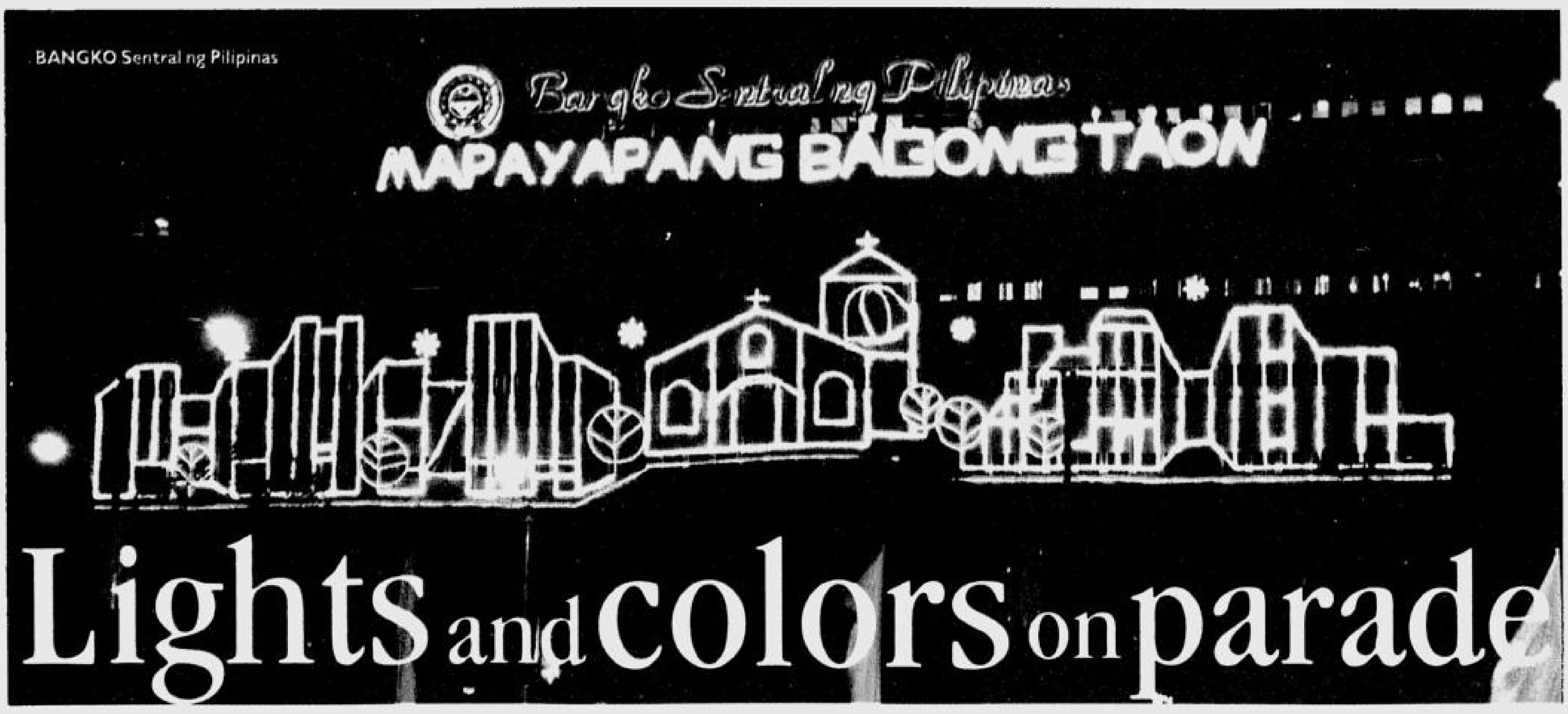
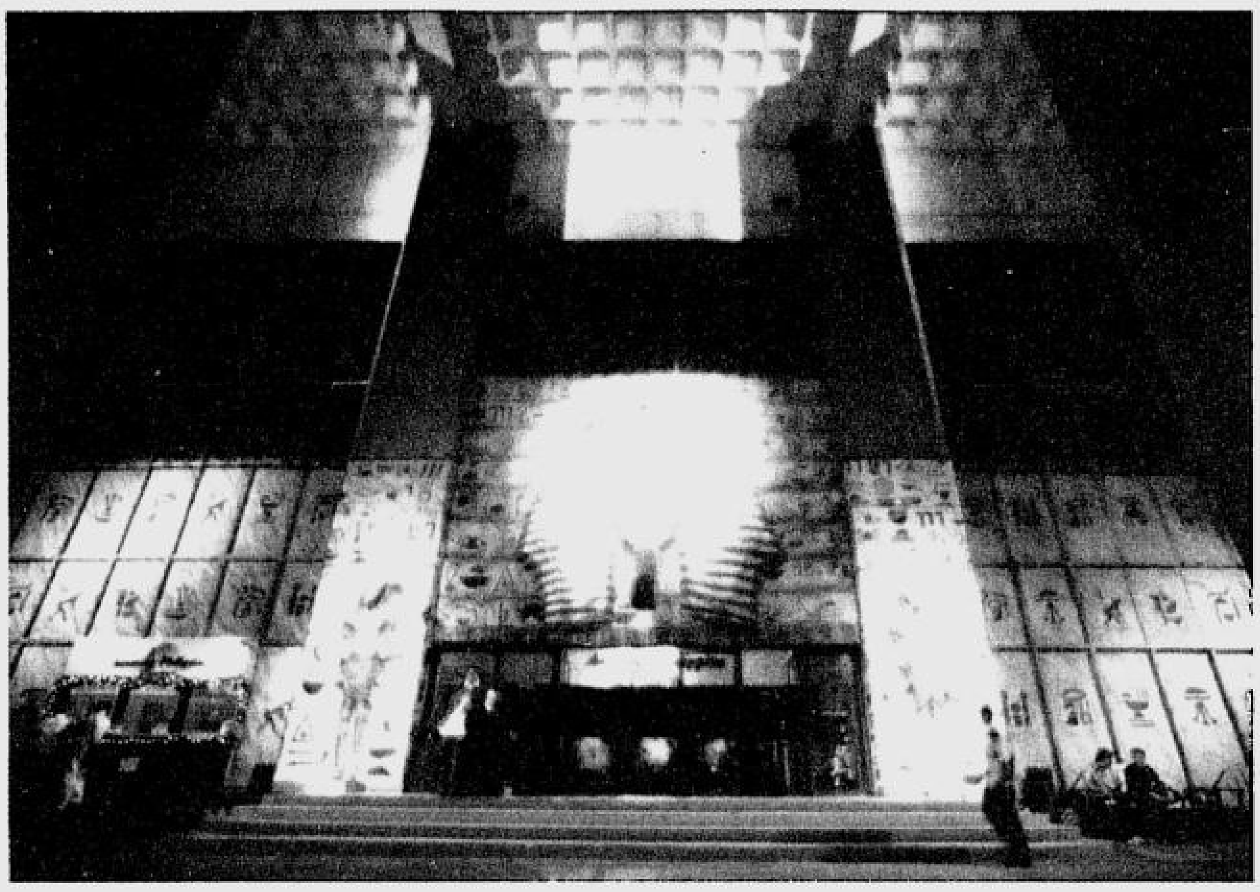

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAPAYAPANG BAGONG TAON

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas

# Lights and colors on parade



MANILA Film Center

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

'TIS the season to celebrate, and we all know this is no time to stay home. Cities and towns across the country are bedecked in their holiday best, hosting dazzling parades and celebrations and brilliant light displays.

Roxas Boulevard in Manila is one destination guaranteed to get you into the holiday mood.

For starters, the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex is a wonderland of colors and light. The grounds come alive with white star lanterns on poles planted on the lawn area. A cluster of star lanterns brightens up the upper portion of the center's main entrance.

But it's the theme parks—Star City and Amazing World of Lights and Lanterns—that draw hordes of young and old promenaders alike with their incredible dancing lights and invitations to pure merriment.

The once eerie Manila Film Center is also

LIGHTS/ D4

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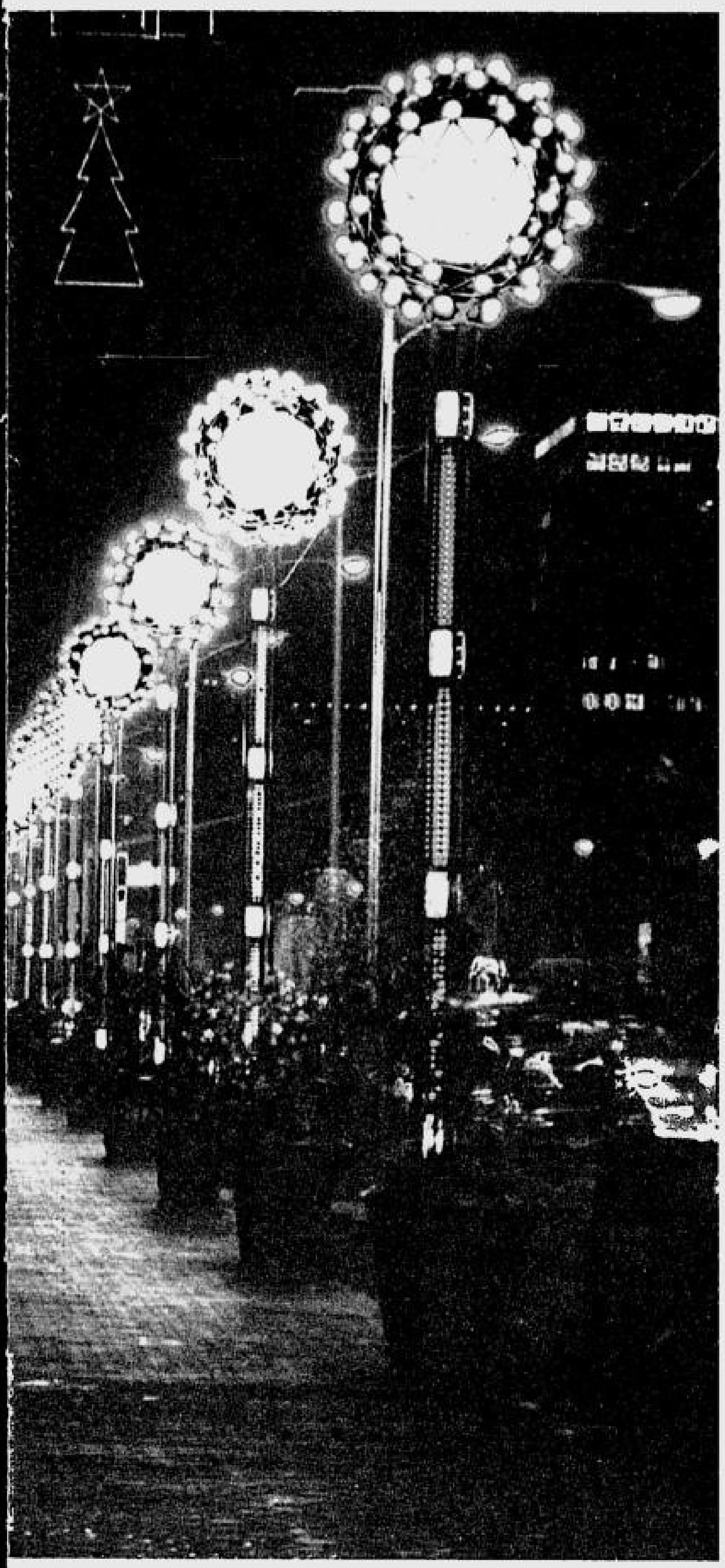

With its dazzling Christmas displays, Roxas Boulevard in Manila is one destination guaranteed to get you into the holiday mood

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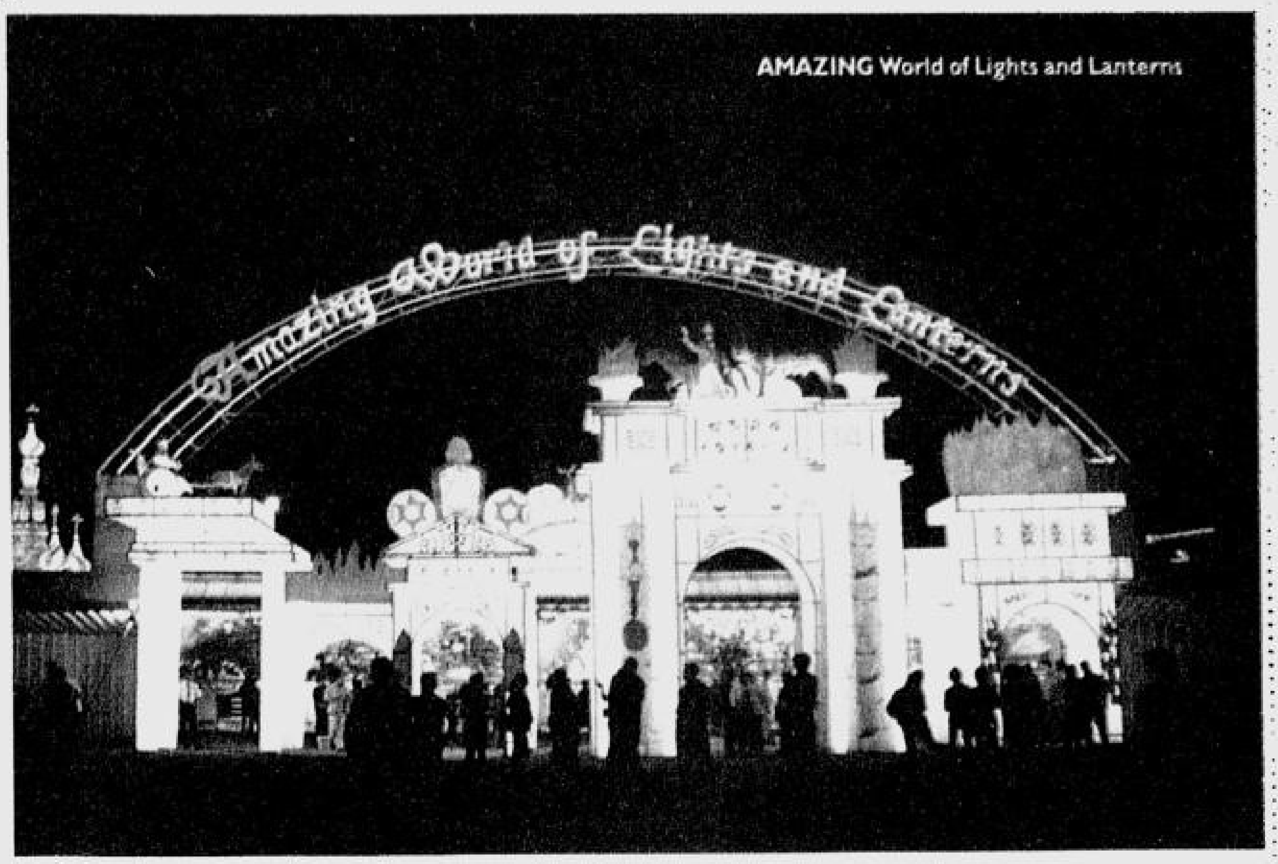
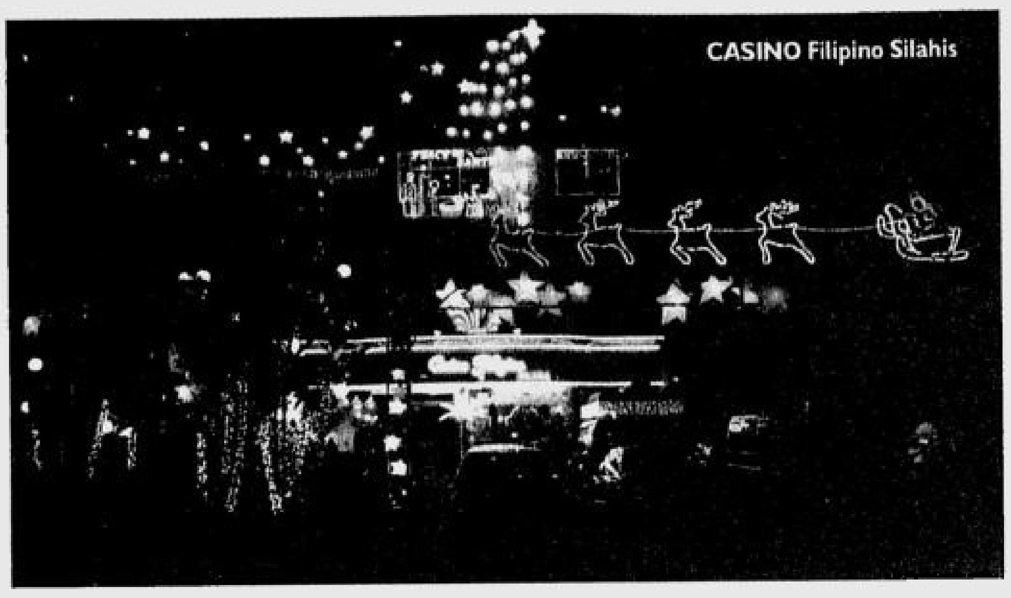

AMAZING World of Lights and Lanterns


CASINO Filipino Silahis

# Lights and colors on parade

From page D2

holding activities. Its dimly lighted façade has been redesigned with images and symbols of Egypt. Its décor may not have that signature holiday touch, but the place at least has been roused from its slumber.

With the entire length of Roxas Boulevard undergoing a facelift as part of the Buhayin ang Maynila program of the city government, additional bright lights have been installed, especially at the Baywalk.

The strip is dotted with multicolored globes that look like Christmas lanterns. It's also clean and well-maintained, making it a choice recreation spot where people can stroll, bike, jog, read a book or just rest on a bench and savor a refreshing drink. Cafés and kiosks do booming business here, especially on weekends.

Meanwhile, the Rajah Sulayman Park has been reopened and transformed into a genuine plaza. Families have been flocking to the area ever since to rest and enjoy the fountains and lights.

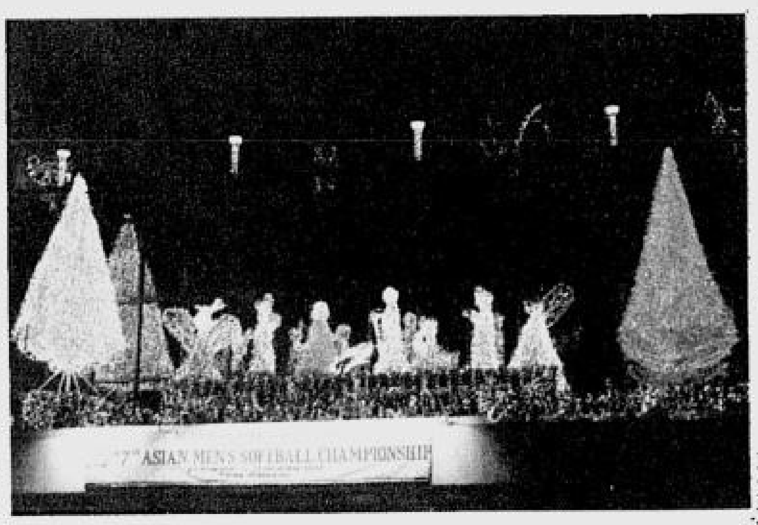
Since the onset of the Yuletide season, hotels and other commercial buildings on Roxas Boulevard have also spruced up their establishments radiant decorations.

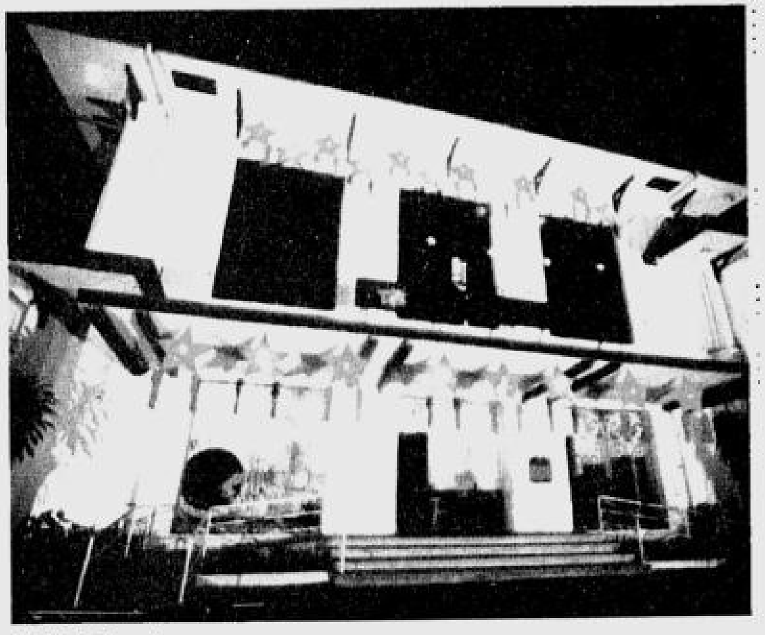
Traders Hotel, for example, displays a *belen* in colorful lights at its *porte-cochere*.

Museo Pambata, on the other hand, is simply adorned with star lanterns in red, yellow and green. So is the United States Embassy, which has mounted lanterns on its fences.

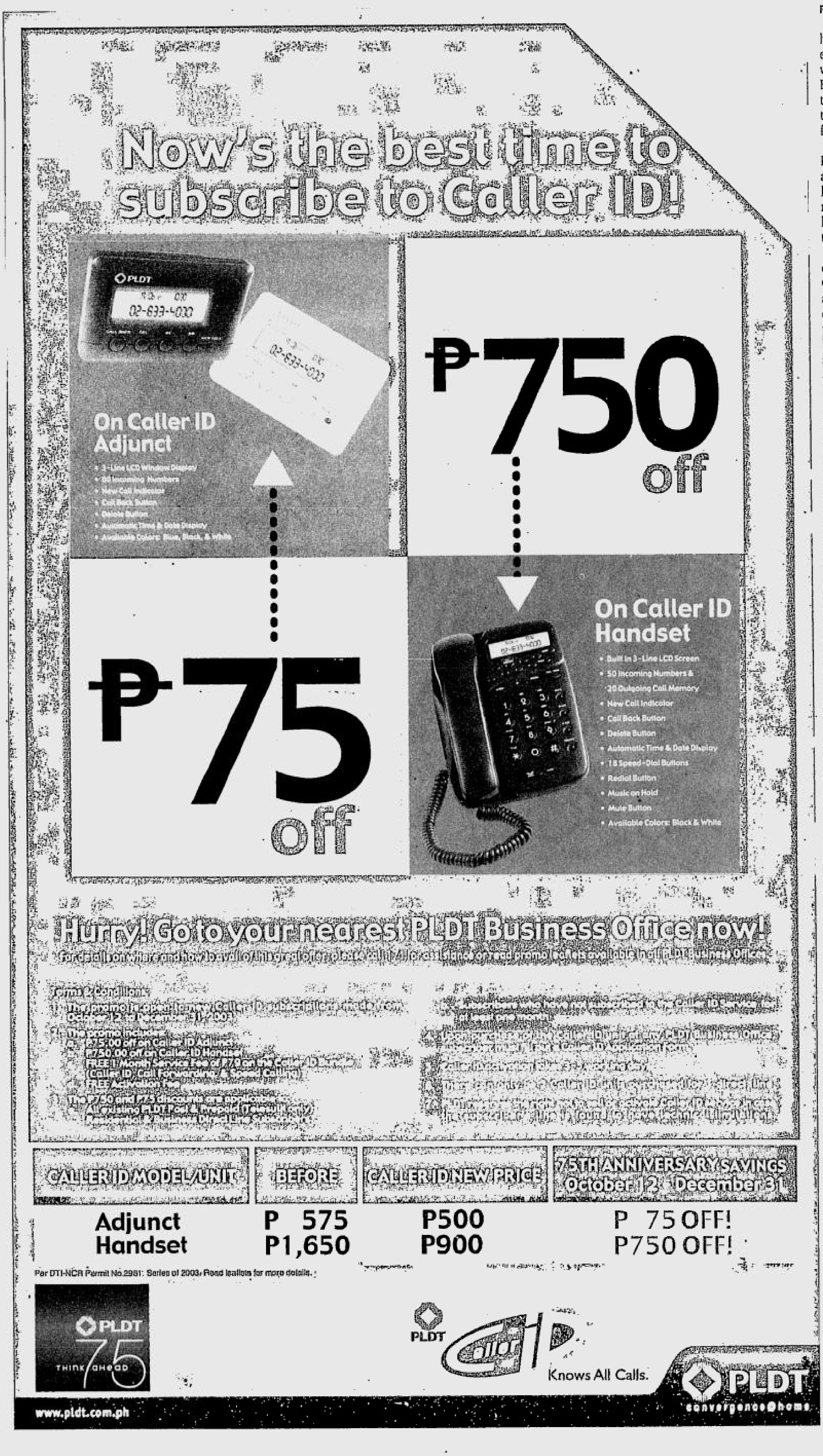
Casino Filipino Silahis showcases a *belen* and Santa riding on his sleigh, while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas building features a big church and its swinging bell.

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*


TRADERS Hotel's *belen*


MUSEO Pambata

RAJAH Sulayman Park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The long Christmas dinner /E6

# Irresistible breakfast for morning after 'noche buena'

EGGS Florentine

Chef Tony Boy Escalante whips up a power breakfast for Christmas Day

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

DO people eat breakfast on Christmas morning? After the *noche buena* feast the night before, it would seem hard just to get up.

But there are people who consider Christmas breakfast a special meal for families.

"Christmas Day is a time to spend with family," says chef Tony Boy Escalante of Antonio's in Tagaytay. "[Breakfast] is an important meal that shouldn't be skipped. It jumpstarts our bodies and minds and prepares us for the long day ahead."

He says a busy day of socializing like Christmas Day should begin with a well-planned first meal.

Escalante himself prepares a nice meal for his wife and two kids on Christmas morning, although this time without the pancakes, hash browns and sausages. His idea of a Christmas breakfast is something light yet attractive and easy to prepare.

For the special breakfast, the chef whips up elegant Eggs Florentine—two poached eggs with smoked ham and spinach on English muffin, topped with Hollandaise sauce; the classic Gravlax & Eggs which comes with marinated salmon, onions, capers, sliced tomatoes, cream cheese and dilled scrambled eggs, served with panini; and a warm bowl of granola with low-fat milk.

The morning fare is best accompanied by refreshing fresh fruit shakes.

For cooking Eggs Florentine, Escalante says poached eggs are suitable. The egg should have a nice oval shape. For this, very fresh eggs should be used and a little vinegar should be added to the water for poaching.

"This helps make the whites contract tightly around the yolk, thus preventing it from spreading," says Escalante, who opened recently a new restaurant called All-Day Breakfast at Antonio's, also in Tagaytay.

The chef adds that stale watery eggs will spread, break up and loosen from the yolks. No amount of vinegar will make them look anything other than stale.

"It is very important, however, that poached eggs are not served straight from the acidulated water. They should be placed first in clean hot salted water to remove the taste of the vinegar."

For the Hollandaise sauce, a little warm water may have to be added to lighten the texture and make the consistency suitable for coating.

To encourage our readers to sit down to breakfast even on a busy Christmas morning, here are Escalante's recipes.

### Green Apple, Strawberry and Orange Slush

Fresh fruits (green apple, strawberry, orange)
Sugar syrup
Crushed ice

In a blender, combine apple, sugar and ice and blend. Do the same with the strawberry and orange. Note: The amount of fresh fruit and sugar syrup should depend on taste and size of glass.

IRRESISTIBLE/ E2

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See leaflets for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4864 Series of 2003

# Irresistible breakfast for morning after . . .

From page E1

CHEF Antonio's idea of Christmas breakfast is something light yet attractive and easy to prepare.

## Gravlax & Eggs

2 kg salmon fillet
100 g sea salt
50 g sugar
5 g finely crushed white peppercorns
100 g coarsely chopped dill
2 tbsp Aquavit (available at Santi's)

Make sure that the fillet of salmon is scaled, free of bone, washed and dried. Cut into two equal halves. Place one half, skin-side down, in a suitably sized deep dish. Sprinkle with some of the mixed seasoning, dill and Aquavit. Cover with the other piece of salmon, flesh side down, and sprinkle with the remaining ingredients. Cover with foil or paper and place in the refrigerator to marinate for two to three days.

Separate the fillets and baste occasionally with the exuded juices. To serve, clean the salmon of any adhering salt, pepper and dill. Cut into thin slices on the slant, allowing 2-3 slices per portion, and serve with lemon and brown bread and butter.

## Granola with Low-fat Milk

2 c old-fashioned rolled oats
½ c wheat germ
¼ c coarsely chopped walnuts
¼ c white sesame seeds
¼ c shredded sweetened coconut
¼ c raw hulled green pumpkin seeds
2 tbsp canola oil
3 tbsp honey
1 tbsp ground cinnamon
¼ c dried currants, or to taste
Whole milk for serving

Sliced fresh fruit such as nectarines, peaches, bananas, pears, plums, mangoes or berries for serving (optional)

Pre-heat the broiler (grill). Place the broiler pan on the lowest rack. In a large bowl, combine the rolled oats, wheat germ, walnuts, sesame seeds, coconut and pumpkin seeds. Spread the mixture evenly on a large, rimmed baking sheet and put it on the pan.

Keeping the broiler door ajar, broil (grill), shaking the pan every 30 seconds while keeping the mixture evenly spread, until crisp and golden but not charred, 2-3 minutes. Watch the mixture carefully so it does not burn. Transfer to a large plate to cool.

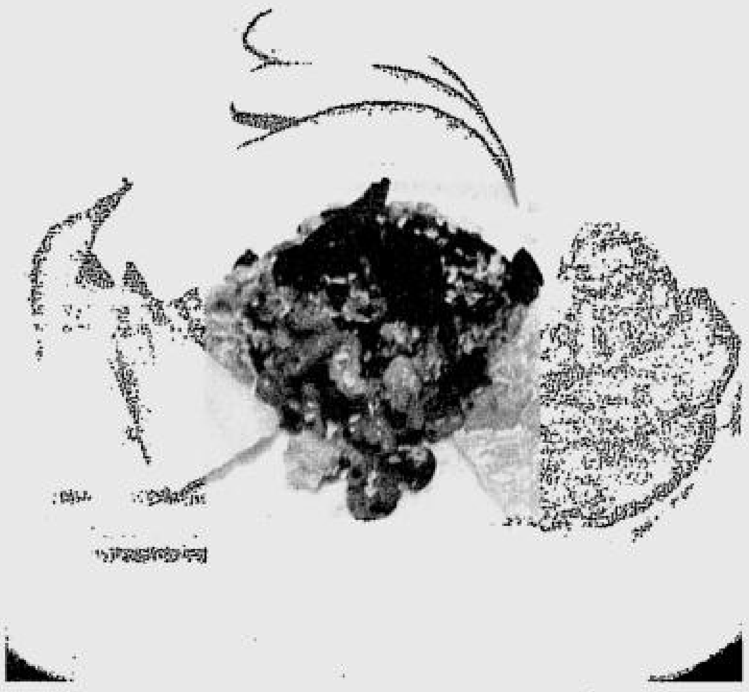
In a small saucepan, over low heat, combine the oil, honey and cinnamon until warm, for about two minutes. In a large bowl, add half of the honey mixture to the granola and toss thoroughly to combine. Add just enough of the remaining honey mixture so that the granola clumps slightly but is not soupy. Stir in the currants.

Serve the granola with sliced fruits if desired.

Note: the granola will keep in an airtight container for up to a week.

## Eggs Florentine

2 halves muffin
spinach, sautéed with onions
2 slices ham
2 poached eggs



GRANOLA with Low-fat Milk

For hollandaise sauce:
500 g butter
8 white crushed peppercorns
2 tsp vinegar
5 egg yolks
freshly squeezed lemon juice

For poached eggs, break the eggs into gently simmering water (approximately one part white vinegar to 10 parts water) using a suitably sized saucepan three-quarters full. Simmer very gently for four minutes until the whites are firm while the yolks are still soft. Remove the eggs carefully with a perforated spoon and place into a basin of cold water. Trim off the loose edges. Reheat when required by placing the eggs in very hot salted water for approximately a minute. Drain on clean cloth before serving. Note: Allow one or two eggs per portion for an egg dish.

For sauce, place butter in a pan and melt in a bain marie. Skim and keep lukewarm. Place in a well-tinned copper or stainless steel saucepan and reduce until almost dry. Allow it to cool, adding two teaspoon water.

Cook egg yolks, whisking continuously in a bain marie. Allow cooling until lukewarm while whisking. Add the melted butter gradually, whisking continuously.

Pass through a muslin or fine strainer into a warm container. Adjust the seasoning with salt only. Finish with the lemon juice and keep at an even temperature of 30-37°C.

To assemble, toast muffins, top with spinach, sliced ham, poached eggs and pour hollandaise on top and broil. Serve at once.

*E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

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# Suitor admits he's a pedophile

**LIVE AND LET LIVE**

*Tita Dulce*

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I met Jim, an American, through the Internet. He's 31 and I'm 23. During three months of frequent exchanges of e-mail, chats and phone calls, I learned that he was jailed for three years when he was 19 because he touched the private parts of a 5- or 6-year-old girl.

He said he had reformed and just thought of other things whenever the idea of making sexual advances to young girls crossed his mind.

He came here and stayed for two weeks, during which he proposed marriage to me three or four times. Jim is nice-looking and sweet, but I didn't feel ready for marriage so told him I would have to think about it.

For two weeks after he left, I stopped communicating with him. When he called, I told him what I felt, that I had doubts that he had overcome his attraction to young girls.

He was quite mad when he heard that. He admitted that he was a pedophile but insisted that he had been cured. He said he was angry because he had made plans for me to join him abroad and for us to start a family. After that, my mom's friend told me that she had doubted that Jim and I would last because she noticed that he was more attracted to my 12-year-old sister than to me. Having the impression that he was very much in love with me, I didn't notice that. But I recalled that he was very fond of my six-year-old niece, whom he would kiss on the face repeatedly until she'd get mad at him.

A few weeks ago, Jim e-mailed me to say that he would come over again next year to meet his Filipino girlfriend and he would visit me while he's here. Now I'm having doubts about what I have done, and sometimes I pity him. He is really a nice guy if you won't think of his past. Do you think he has reformed?

LEENA

We're both laymen when it comes to the true state of Jim's pedophilia, so your guess is as good as mine. But perhaps what counts most now is not that we can or cannot define his mental health, but how you reacted to it. Despite thinking that he is a nice guy, you rejected him because you doubted if he was cured.

Such doubt would hardly count if Jim were simply asking to be your friend or co-worker. But Jim is asking for marriage, and marriage is a relationship of great trust between spouses. If you marry him with such doubts in your mind, you may just be setting yourselves up for a very unhappy marriage.

So, from where I sit, my dear, I think you did the right thing in rejecting his proposal.

It is understandable that you should pity him. People with mental or behavioral problems deserve our sympathy and understanding because they never asked for those burdens, and they would have none of it if only they could. But being sympathetic and understanding does not mean that you have to marry Jim.

I'm sure he himself understands that. I'm sure he knows that no nursery schools or agencies dealing with children will employ him, that they will reject him not because they are unsympathetic—they probably are—but because having a person with a history such as his will put the children under unnecessary risk. Children are precious, and so is marriage, and so is your life, your peace of mind and your future.

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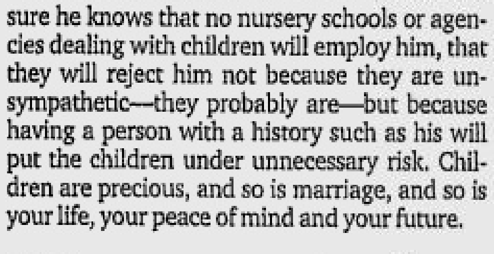

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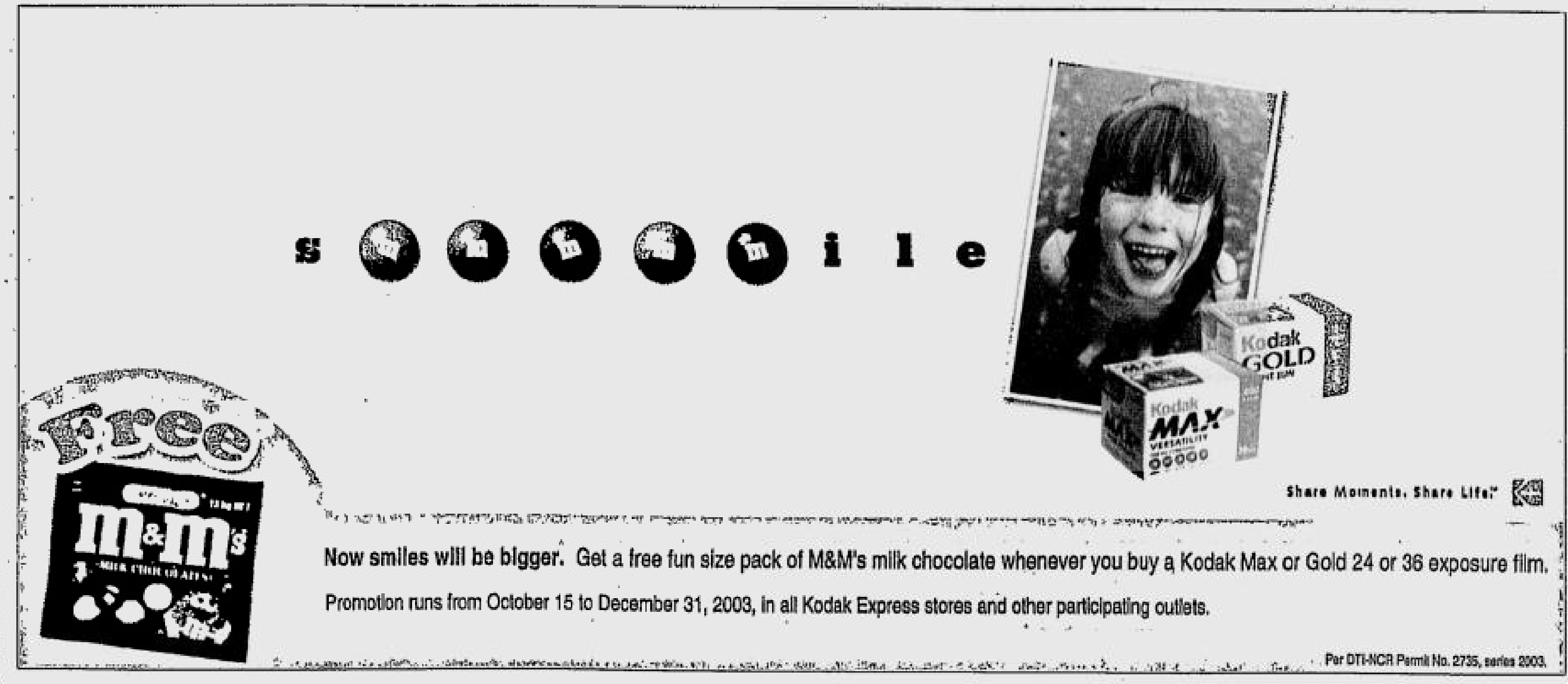

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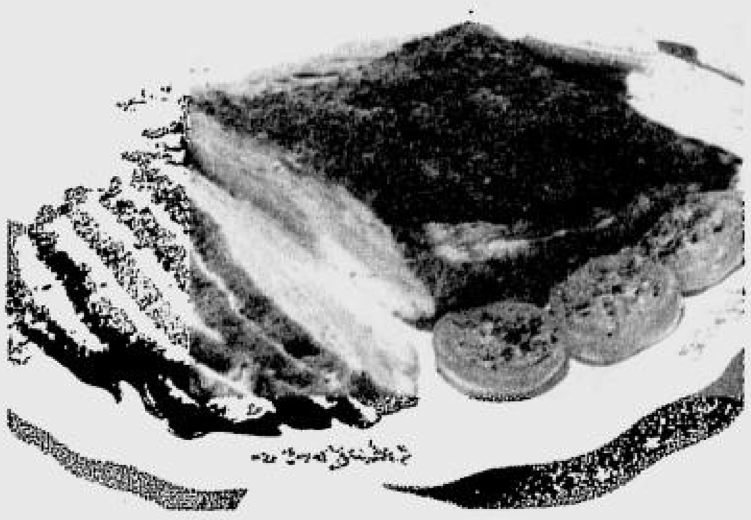
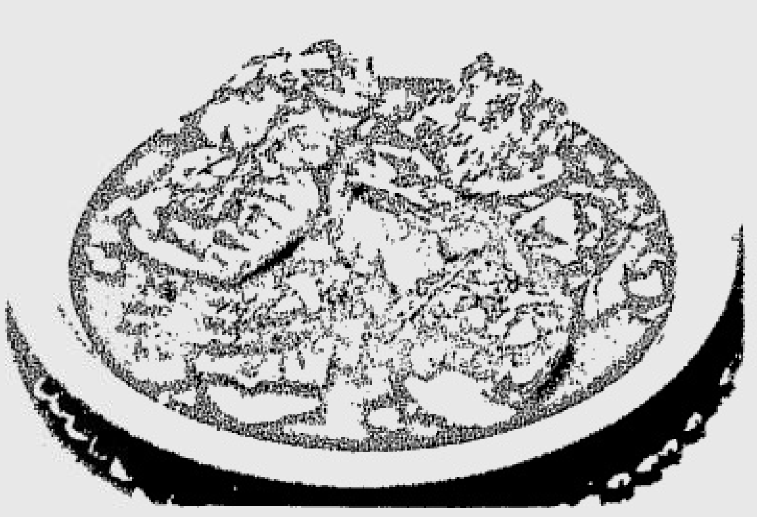


SLOW-ROASTED Beef Belly



FRESH Codfish Vizcaina Style

BANANA-CHOCOLATE Filo Pastry Purses

# A classy Christmas lunch

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Roger Carpio**

EVERYBODY interprets and celebrates the holidays differently. For chef Jay Gamboa of the popular Cirkulo, preparing the Christmas lunch is a serious business.

"It's a time when families sit down together and have a nice lengthy conversation over a perfectly good meal," he says.

For him, creating a wonderful Christmas lunch means going for something different from the usual holiday offerings. Instead of roast chicken or pork, it's roast beef belly, which is usually the pièce de résistance in his house.

"Roast beef in our house is serious business," says the good-looking, energetic chef. "It's only served during very special occasions, like Christmas, New Year or birthdays. It is very hard to resist a great roast."

However, since the price of prime rib and sirloin nowadays is nothing to cheer at, Chef Gamboa offers an alternative: beef belly, which is just as tender as, even more flavorful than, the usual rump. And at only a fraction of the cost!

"If you can find US beef belly, this will taste even better," he suggests.

A kilo of beef belly costs about P180 per kilo, compared to US prime rib worth about P1,000 a kilo.

"You cannot afford to screw up a prime rib, you know—overcook it and waste it just like that. The beef belly is thus your best alternative," says Gamboa.

Roast Beef Belly is one of his top-sellers at Cirkulo on Pasay Road.

Cooking the beef can be done a day before because it is slow-roasted for a long period of time— four hours at the most, until the belly is well done and tender to the bite.

Fish is also part of Gamboa's Christmas lunch spread. Most people are familiar with Bacalao Vizcaina, the Spanish salt-cod dish with tomatoes, peppers, garlic, olive oil and almonds.

Since quality bacalao is often hard to find, if not too expensive, Gamboa makes his own—Fresh Codfish Vizcaina style. The result is a fresher and juicier "bacalao." Again at a fraction of the cost, yet just as festive. Vizcaina takes a little extra time and effort to make, but the resulting treat is sumptuous.

Gamboa's bowl of salad, tossed with flavorful dressing and finely cut veggies, fruits and nuts, makes for a refreshing but substantial meal.

The apple salad adds color and richness to his selection of lunch treats. In fact, the earliest guests will appreciate this salad as a starter while waiting for the others to arrive.

To cap the meal, the chef indulges with Banana-Chocolate Filo Pastry Purses. This dessert can be prepared less than an hour with relative ease. It is also very light, which is rather nice on Christmas Day when what usually comes out of the kitchen is often too rich and filling.

To help you prepare an extraordinary midday meal for Christmas Day, here are chef Jay Gamboa's recipes:

### Slow-Roasted Beef Belly

Serves 6-10

*Ingredients*

1 pc boneless beef belly or short plate, about 3-4 kg (ask your butcher for the "bacon" area of the cow)
½ c whole peppercorns, crushed
½ c rock salt
2 heads garlic, peeled and minced
*For the sauce:*
1 c prepared horseradish (available at delis and supermarkets)
1 c milk
1 tsp chopped parsley
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 280°F. Combine crushed peppercorns, salt and garlic into a paste. Rub on top of beef.

Place beef on a rack and onto a roasting pan. Place in oven. Cook at 280°F for 4-5 hours or until tender. *Important*: Oven temperature must be this low to break down the connective tissues of the beef, resulting in a melt-in-your-mouth succulent roast beef.

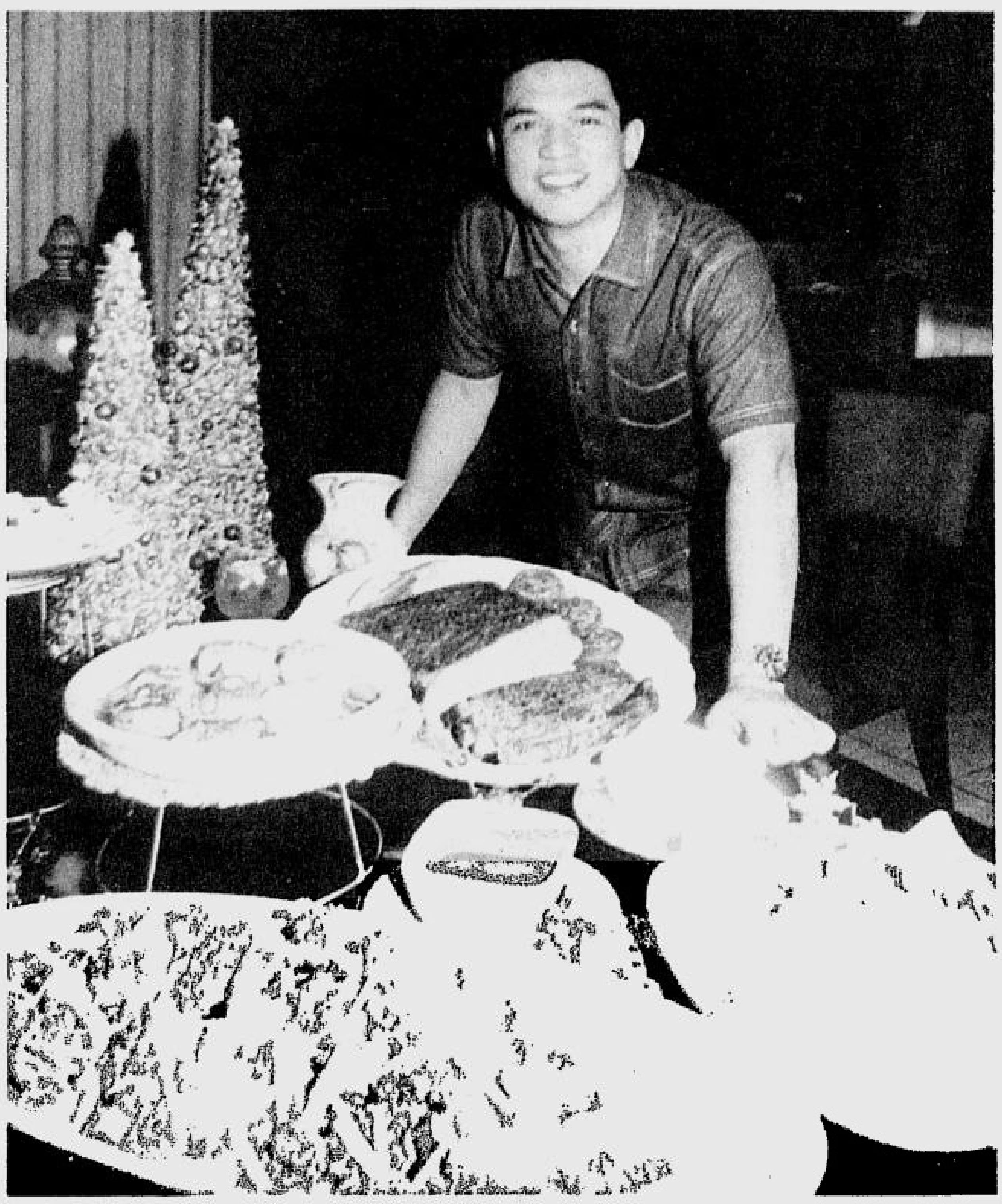
Test for tenderness with a kitchen fork after 4 hours. Once done, remove meat from oven and rest for at least one hour before slicing.

To make the sauce: Combine all ingredients. Mix well. Serve with beef on the side.

You may cook the beef two days before serving and keep in refrigerator. For reheating, slice beef while cold into 1/3 inch thick slices. Arrange beef slices overlapping each other in a baking tray.

Pour ½ c of stock or water over the beef. Cover with foil and bake in a 350°F oven for 15-20 minutes or until heated thoroughly. Serve with horseradish sauce.

You can serve this dish with steamed asparagus, zucchini and roasted tomatoes.



PRESENTING a masterpiece of a meal

### Fresh Codfish Vizcaina Style

Serves 6-8

*Ingredients*

1 k Codfish fillets, skin-on, or any white-fleshed fish, like lapu-lapu or labahita
¼ c rock salt
*For the sauce:*
½ c olive oil
3 cloves garlic, sliced
1 c tomatoes, peeled, seeded, diced
¼ c white wine
1 c fish stock (made from bones of fish)
2 pcs red pepper, roasted, peeled and sliced
1 tsp Spanish paprika
3 pcs potatoes, peeled, sliced ¼ inch, fried
1 k codfish fillets, sliced and salted
Salt and pepper to taste
Sliced almonds, toasted (optional)
Chopped parsley (optional)

Remove any bones from the fish; rub with rock salt, careful to place less salt on the thinner portions. Marinate fish in salt for 12 hours, then wash off and pat dry. Cut into 8 serving portions.

For the sauce: Heat olive oil in saucepan, place garlic and cook until almost brown. Add tomatoes and cook until soft. Add white wine and simmer for 2 minutes. Then add the stock, pepper, paprika and potatoes. Let simmer for 3 minutes.

Add codfish and simmer for 5 minutes or until cooked through. Adjust seasoning. Transfer to serving dish, sprinkle with sliced almonds and chopped parsley, and serve.

### Salad with Apples, Walnuts and Gorgonzola

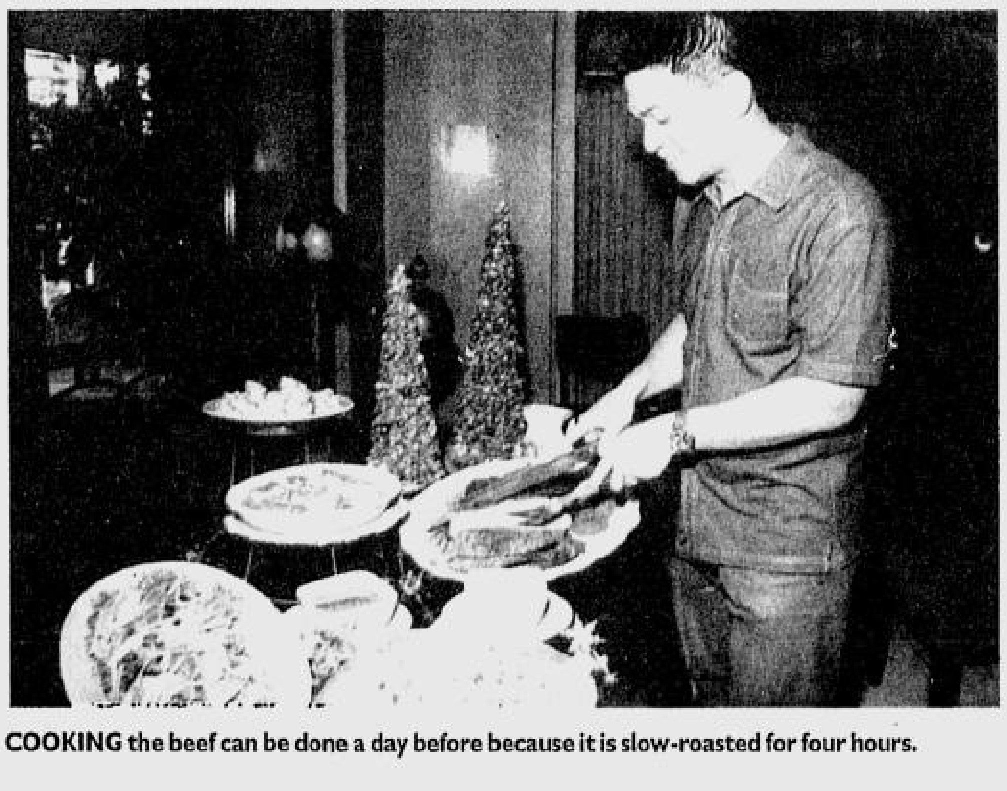
Serves 6-8

*Ingredients*

500 g assorted lettuce, Lollo Rosa, arugula, romaine, or Mesclun mix, washed and spun dry
1 pc carrot, cut into sticks
1 pc green apple, julienned
½ c walnut, toasted and chopped roughly
100 g gorgonzola, cubed (or any blue cheese)
*For the apple vinaigrette:*
¼ c olive oil
1 c sherry vinegar
1 c honey
1 pc green apple, peeled, seeded, chopped
1 tbsp basil, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a salad bowl. For the vinaigrette, combine all ingredients in a blender. Purée until smooth.

SALAD with Apples, Walnuts and Gorgonzola



COOKING the beef can be done a day before because it is slow-roasted for four hours.

> For chef Jay Gamboa of Cirkulo, a wonderful midday meal means going for something different from the usual holiday offerings

**Banana-Chocolate Filo Pastry Purses**

Makes 12 small purses

*Ingredients*

*For the filling:*
1/2 c unsalted butter
1 c brown sugar
1 pc orange, juiced and rind minced
1/4 c rum
400 g bananas, peeled and sliced
3/4 c chocolate chips
*For the pastry:*
6 sheets filo pastry
1/2 c clarified butter

In a sauce pan, heat butter and add brown sugar until melted to light-caramel color. Add orange juice and rum. Mix well until caramel has dissolved. Add sliced bananas to coat and orange rind. Set aside and let cool.

Mix in chocolate chips. Place 1 sheet filo pastry on your table, brush with clarified butter, and cover with another sheet of filo pastry. Brush again with clarified butter.

Divide the buttered filo pastry into 4 squares with a knife. In each square, place 1 tbsp of banana and chocolate filling in the center. Fold up the 4 corners of each square and crumple to make a purse resembling a pouch. Repeat for the other squares. Continue the same with the other sheets of filo pastry until you have 12.

To bake, preheat oven to 400°F. Place filo pastry purses in a baking sheet, making sure they are not touching each other. Bake for 5-10 minutes or until golden brown and crisp. This goes well with vanilla ice cream.

*Email the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

# Pastry packages for the season

**PASTRY** Passion's sumptuous creations

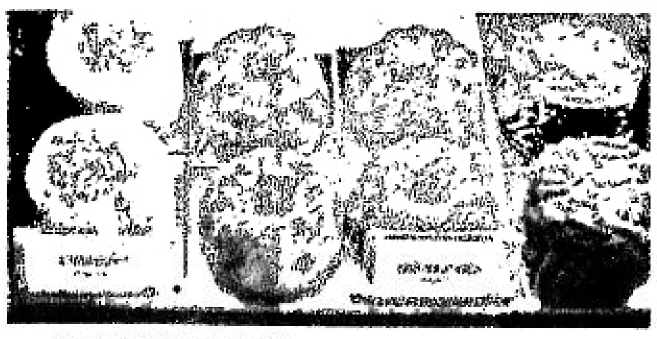
PASTRY Passion, the place where you can find the best tiramisus and moist chocolate cakes in town, is offering Christmas packages this holiday season.

Love and savor its sumptuous creations like the Carrot-Walnut Cake, Concorde, Mango-Almond Mousse, Strawberry Cheesecake, Turtle Pie and To-Die-For Decadence.

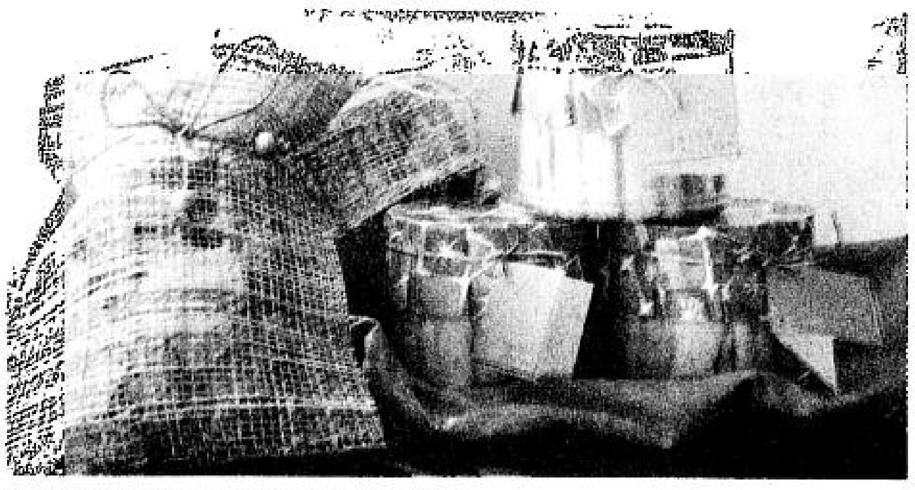
Beyond the desserts are also palatable pastas, grilled sandwiches and espresso, all at pocket-friendly prices.

Located at Marisan Bldg., 48 West Ave., QC, Pastry Passion is open Monday-Saturday, 1 p.m.-12 midnight.

Call 4150108.



**IRRESISTIBLE** treats



**PERFECT** gifts for loved ones this Christmas

**JU.D Lao**

# *Carrying on a tradition*

AFTER 29 years, Ju.D Lao has earned the reputation as the Philippines' Fruitcake Lady for her fruitcakes and Chewy Chewkies (the fruitcake cookie she invented).

Lao, who makes the products for local and overseas clients every Christmas, found out that people from all walks of life liked her fruitcakes.

One woman, who lived in one of Manila's poorer neighborhoods, even insisted her order of two pieces be delivered. Lao usually didn't deliver when the order was small and the place was far but she could not say no.

Her husband, who delivered the cakes, learned that one piece was for the client's boss. It seemed Ju.D Fruitcake was the only gift she felt was good enough for someone who had almost everything.

Lao has seen other interesting ways by which people show their appreciation. The often shy Pinoys usually take advantage of the long Christmas season to show their kindness and express their gratitude.

Pinoys usually give their gifts on the second weekend of December. If they fail to send their gifts before Christmas, they wait for New Year's Eve or the Feast of the Three Kings.

Lao said she baked the cakes herself, assisted by her maids and some out-of-school youths, so production was limited.

Making the fruitcakes, she added, was labor-intensive, from the dredging of the fruits and nuts, to baking, aging and packing. But she said the Ju.d Fruitcake had become a tradition for many customers.

This year, Lao is launching a new product, Ginger Cookies, from a special recipe by her daughter Jamie. The cookies will be sold by the dozen and packed in glossy gold boxes.

Call 6331188 or 6330260.

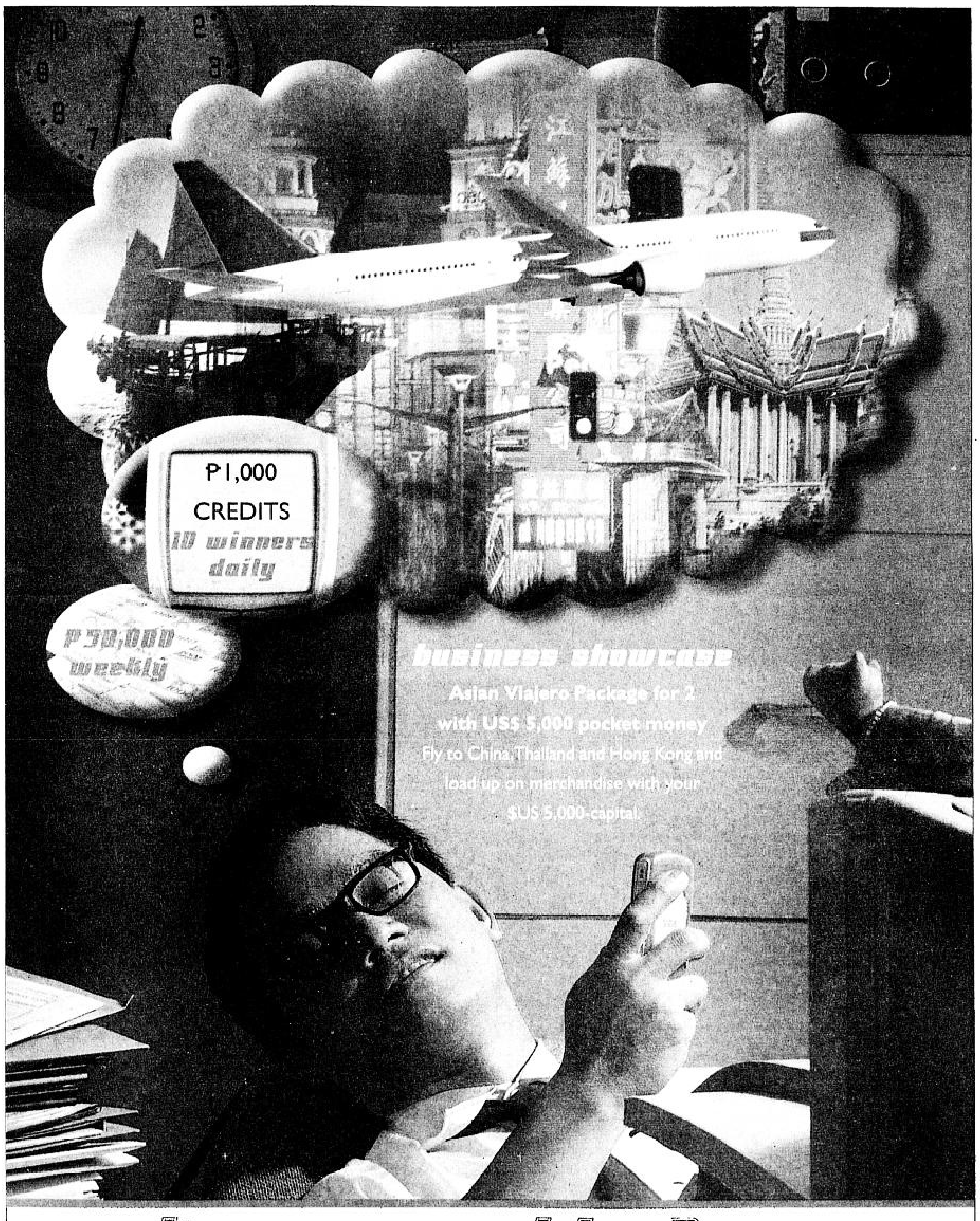
# Healthy dips

DIPS for potato chips or finger food with no preservatives and chemicals are now available under the Nonna Maria (Lola Maria in Italian) label.

Concocted by Dr. Rebecca B. Singson, an obstetrician-gynecologist with training on Bionutrition, the dips come in three flavors: pesto layered with cream cheese and tomato-garlic-sauce; a veggie trio dip (tomato, squash and eggplant); and a tangy herb-cheese dip made from carabao's milk cheese marinated in extra-virgin olive oil and fresh herbs.

Call 8218765.

**DR. Rebecca Singson with her concoction, Nonna Maria dips and sauces**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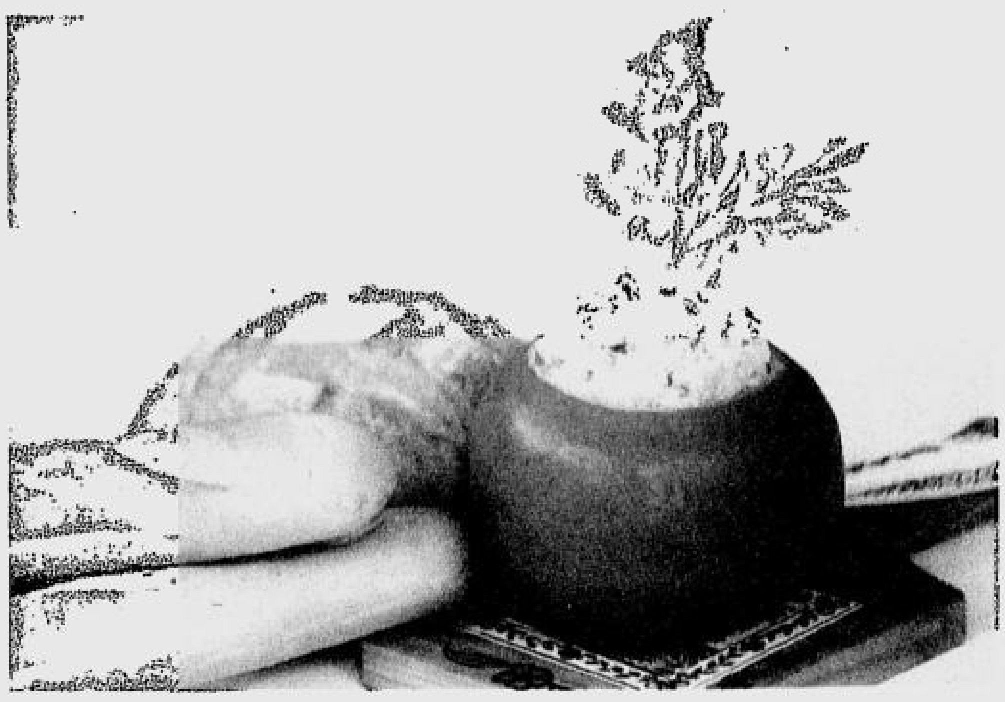
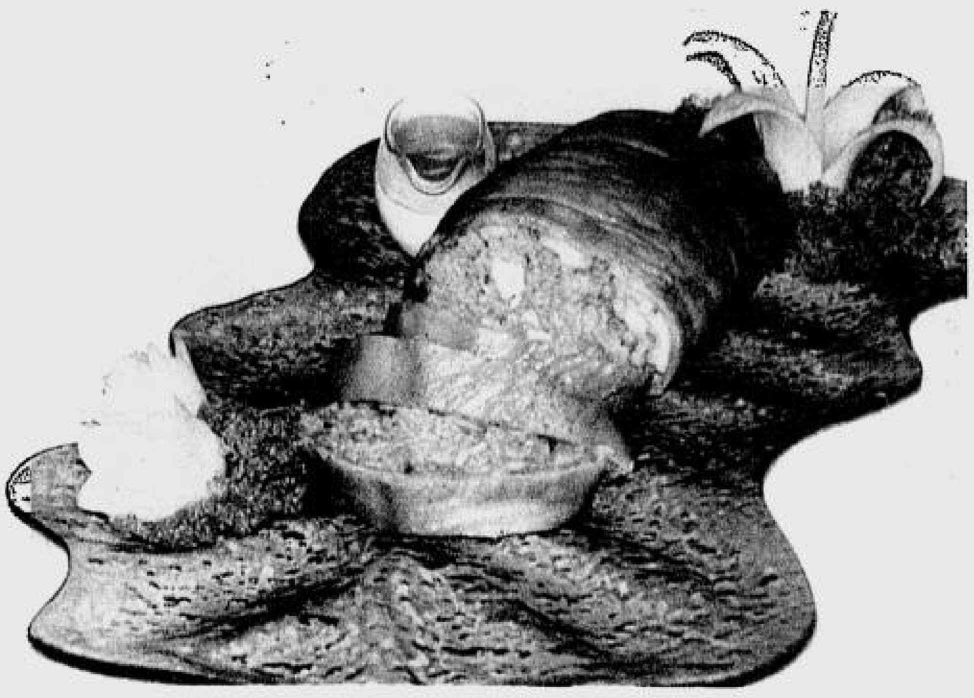
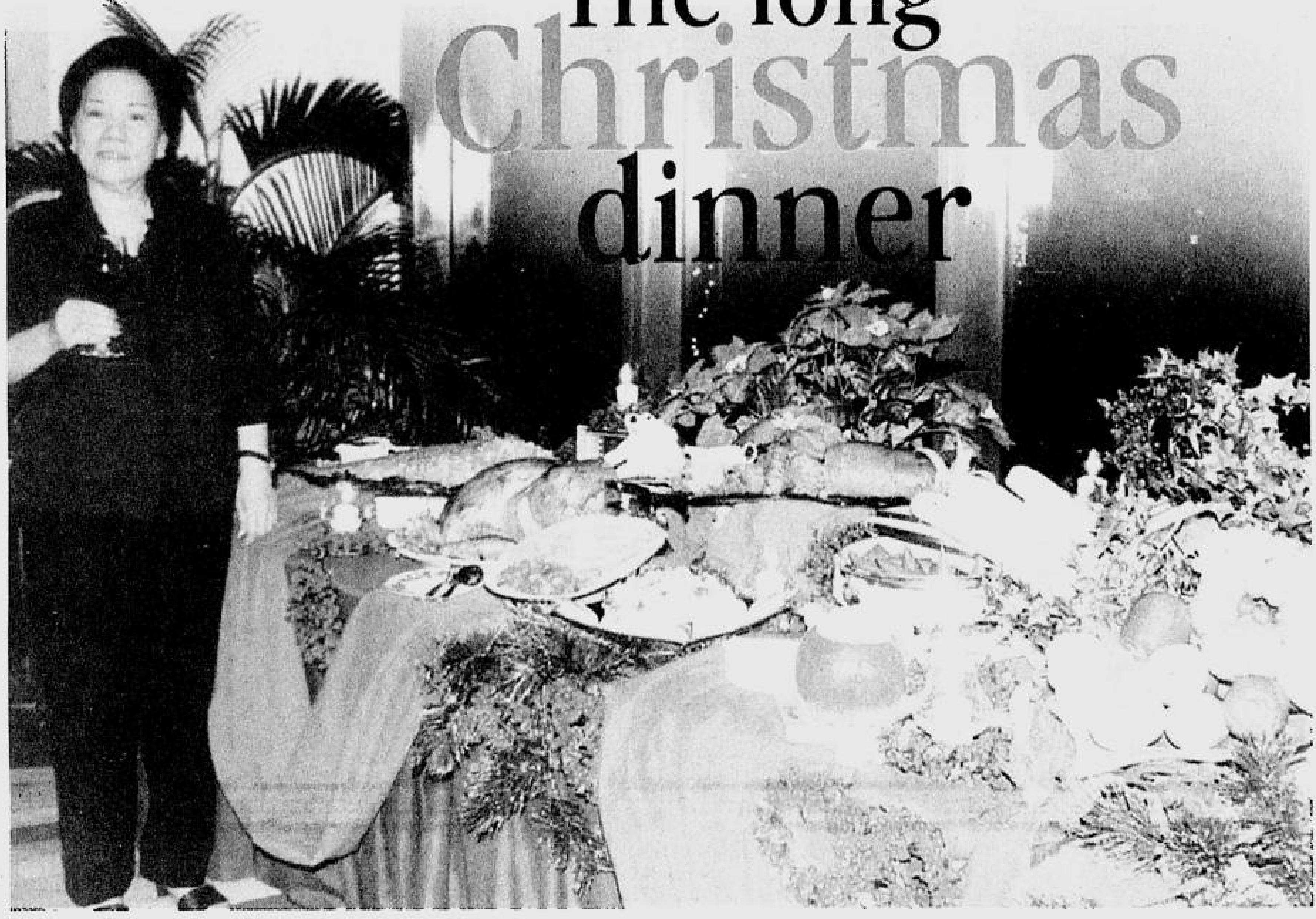


**STUFFED** Edam Cheese



**CUCHINILLO** stuffed with Paella Manileña



**HER** version of the Christmas dinner is rich in tradition but distinguished by innovation.

# The long Christmas dinner

Glenda Barretto provides recipes for the biggest and most unforgettable feast of the year

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Rudy Esperas**

CHRISTMAS without the Christmas dinner is inconceivable.

"It's probably the biggest meal you'll cook all year, and it's all too easy to get completely stressed out. So, plan for it ahead of time," says restaurateur Glenda Rosales Barretto.

Yes, the doyenne of Philippine cuisine has said it herself. Planning is essential to having the biggest and most unforgettable feast of the year.

Barretto's version of the Christmas dinner is rich in tradition but distinguished by innovation. It is also practical.

For example, the great thing about her Spanish-style turkey dish is you can make the stuffing in advance, leaving the dish sitting happily in the fridge until about half an hour before dinner.

And who can resist the Cuchinillo Stuffed with Paella with its crackling-crisp skin covering the moist, tender, flavorful meat?

Barretto's dinner also takes pains with starters, which are often neglected in family dinners because they take up valuable time in the kitchen.

But starters, says Barretto, are what set the tone for the whole meal and help ease everyone into conversation. They're always worth the effort. With a little planning, they don't need much fuss.

So, for Christmas, Barretto has prepared the interesting and easy-to-make Stuffed Edam Cheese and Chicken Liver Pâté, which are best served with sliced baguettes or warm rolls.

And Barretto's Christmas-dinner table is not complete without baked fish and Pastel de Lengua.

For a festive atmosphere, Barretto suggests we should not forget the obvious, such as candles and a nice tablecloth. Fresh fruits and fresh flowers on the table also add to the joyful look.

To wash down this hearty meal and liven up the party, offer your best wines and champagnes.

**SPANISH-STYLE** Roast Stuffed Turkey

## Stuffed Edam Cheese

1 whole Edam Cheese (about 14 ox)
¼ c brandy
1 tsp Dijon mustard
1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
¼ c butter, softened
½ tsp caraway seeds

Cut out a circle from center top of cheese. Carefully scoop out cheese inside, leaving shell intact. Use a curved small knife, such as grapefruit knife, to remove cheese at first; finish the job with small spoon, scooping carefully to avoid puncturing shell.

Place half of the brandy in a food processor. Cut larger pieces of removed cheese into cubes; then add to food processor with mustard, nutmeg and butter. Whirl until smooth, gradually adding remaining brandy with motor running; occasionally stir down sides of work bowl with spatula. Stir in caraway seeds.

Spoon cheese mixture into shell (not all the mixture will fit; refill shell as necessary). If made ahead, cover and refrigerate for 20-24 hours. Let stand at room temperature for about one hour before serving.

## Chicken Liver Pâté

½ kg chicken liver, cleaned
1 c milk
3 tbsp butter
1 medium onion, diced
1 tbsp garlic, minced
100 g pork fat, diced
2 pc bay leaves
1 tsp fresh thyme, chopped
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp black peppercorn, freshly ground
¼ c brandy
1 c all purpose cream
French bread croutons or toast, for accompaniment

In a bowl, soak the liver in milk for two hours. Drain well.

In a large skillet, melt 2 tbsp butter over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring until soft for about 3 mins. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant.

Add the chicken liver, pork fat, bay leaves, thyme, salt and pepper and cook, stirring until the liver is brown on the outside and still slightly pink on the inside. Add the brandy and cook until most of the liquid has evaporated and the liver is cooked through but still tender.

Remove from the heat and let cool slightly. Discard the bay leaves.

In a food processor, combine the liver mixture and cream. Purée and add the remaining butter and pulse to blend. Adjust seasoning to taste.

Pack the pâté into a mold. Cover with plastic and refrigerate until firm. Serve with French bread croutons or toast.

## Cuchinillo Stuffed with Paella

4 kg whole suckling pig, cleaned and prepared
2 tbsp sea salt
1 tbsp freshly ground pepper
2 tbsp minced garlic
paella
oil for basting
**For liver sauce:**
250 g pork liver
75 ml vinegar
2 tbsp oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
2 tbsp chopped onion
1 liter chicken stock
1 tbsp soy sauce
5 tbsp brown sugar
1 tbsp sea salt
1 tbsp ground pepper

THE LONG/ E7

**PASTEL** de Lengua

**CHICKEN** Liver Pâté

**BAKED** Whole Fish with Gherkin Scales

# The long Christmas dinner

From page E6

1 bay leaf
50 g breadcrumbs

Rub the entire cavity of the pig with salt, pepper and garlic, and marinate for about 30 minutes. Spoon in the prepared paella. Sew opening with kitchen thread using overlapping stitches.

Brush the skin with oil and roast in a preheated oven, 180°C, for 90 minutes, basting with oil every 15 mins, then increase heat to 200°C and continue roasting for 30 mins or until the skin is golden and crisp. Serve with liver sauce.

**For liver sauce:**

Slice liver into 1/3-inch fillets and briefly broil, then pass the liver through a food processor while pouring in the vinegar in a slow, steady stream.

Heat the oil and sauté the garlic and onion for 2-3 minutes, then add the processed liver, stock, soy sauce, sugar, salt, pepper and bay leaf.

Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and allow to simmer for 10 mins. Finally, add the breadcrumbs, adjust seasoning, and stir until the sauce thickens.

### Paella Manilena

100 g slab of bacon, cubed
2 tbsp olive oil
50 g minced garlic
100 g diced onion
200 g tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
100 g red and green bell pepper, cut into strips
75 g chorizo Bilbao (garlic sausage) sliced diagonally
2 tbsp paprika
2 bay leaves
100 g squid, skinned and scored
250 g clams
250 g mussels
500 medium-size prawns, head and shell removed
450 g long-grain rice
1.25 liters chicken stock
sea salt to taste
freshly ground peppercorns
50 g cooked peas
2 tbsp black olives
2 tbsp chopped parsley

In a heavy pan, preferably a *paellera*, heat the olive oil and fry the bacon until the fat is rendered. Remove bacon and drain on kitchen paper.

Add into the pan the garlic, onion, tomato, bell peppers, bacon and sausage, and sauté for 3-4 minutes. Add paprika, bay leaves and seafoods. Simmer for two minutes, then remove seafoods and set aside.

Add rice and stock to the pan and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook until the rice is almost done, then replace the seafoods and add the green beans. Cover pan with a tightly fitting lid and cook until the liquid has been absorbed by the rice, for approximately 20 mins.

### Spanish-style Roast Stuffed Turkey

7 kg turkey
1 ½ c rum
salt and pepper
**For stuffing:**
50 g garlic, minced
100 g onions, chopped
125 g butter
250 g ground pork
750 g ground beef
200 g ham, chopped
2 pc chorizo Bilbao, chopped
150 g carrots, chopped
200 g red and green pepper, seeded and chopped
2 c chicken stock
100 g raisins
20 pc water chestnuts, coarsely chopped
2 bay leaves
2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
salt to taste
**For giblet gravy:**
2 c dry white wine
¼ c all-purpose flour
6 c turkey giblet stock (including the reserved cooked neck and giblets)

Melt butter in a pan. Sauté garlic and onions. Add ground pork, ground beef, ham, chorizo, carrots, red and green bell pepper. When they are browned, add chopped raisins. Stir in the stock, and cook for a few minutes until the mixture is dry.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Stuff the turkey with the cooked mixture. Sew up the opening and truss the bird with string, tying the legs and wings close to the body, then put in oven.

Brush with melted butter for five hours, or until meat thermometer inserted in thigh of turkey registers 185°F. Remove from oven and let stand for 15 minutes before carving. Remove excess fat from the pan drippings and serve sauce with the turkey.

**For gravy:**

Skim fat from pan juices, reserving ½ c fat, and deglaze pan with white wine over moderately high heat, scraping up brown bits. Bring white wine to a boil and remove pan from heat.

In a saucepan, whisk together reserved fat and flour and cook over moderately low heat, whisking. Add white-wine mixture and stock or broth in a stream, whisking, and simmer, whisking occasionally for 5 mins. Season gravy with salt and pepper and transfer to gravy boat.

### Pastel de Lengua

1 pc ox tongue (approx 1.5 k)
1 pc small onion, quartered
2 bay leaves
Whole peppercorn
1 tbsp soy sauce
¼ c cooking oil
½ c olive oil
100 g slab bacon, cut into 2-cm cubes
2 tbsp garlic, minced
1 pc small onion, diced
300 g tomatoes, skinned and chopped
100 g carrots, scooped into balls
100 g potatoes, scooped into balls
75 ml red wine
1.25 liters beef stock
100 g champignon mushrooms
50 g stuffed olives
2 tbsp butter
2 tbsp flour
Sea salt to taste
Black peppercorn, freshly ground
**For pastry:**
2 ½ c all purpose flour, sifted
¾ c butter, chilled and cut into small cubes
6-8 tbsp cream
Egg yolk combined with 1 tbsp water (egg wash)

Boil tongue in 6-8 cups of water with onions, bay leaves, salt, peppercorn until tender, for about 3-4 hours.

Peel off the white covering from tongue. Wash thoroughly and marinate in soy sauce. Heat the cooking oil in a large casserole and brown the ox tongue. Slice into 3/4-inch cubes. Set aside.

In another casserole, fry bacon in olive oil to render fat. Remove bacon and set aside.

Reserve 3 tbsp oil in casserole. Sauté garlic and onion, then add tomatoes. Continue to sauté for 5 mins. Add tongue, bacon, sausage, carrot, potato, wine and half of the stock. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and allow to simmer for 10-15 mins. Add mushroom and olives and cook for 2 mins.

Melt the butter in a separate pan, add the flour, and mix well. Whisk in remaining stock until the flour is thoroughly cooked, then stir this into the ox tongue mixture.

Remove from heat and transfer to a 2-liter baking dish. Allow mixture to cook before topping with pastry.

**For the pastry:**

Place the flour in a bowl and cut in the butter. Work with fingers until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs, then add the cream and toss lightly with a fork until dough holds together. Roll out the dough between plastic sheets to a size approximately 25 mm larger than the baking dish, then remove plastic and place on the dish.

Pinch edges of crust, brush top with egg wash, then make slits to allow steam to escape. Bake in a pre-heated over at 200°C for 15 mins, until crust turns golden brown.

### Baked Whole Fish with Gherkin Scales

1 whole fish (*lapu-lapu* or red snapper), approx 2.5 kg, cleaned and gutted
1 ½ tbsp salt
½ tsp black peppercorn, freshly ground
1 tbsp paprika
Juice of one lemon
1 head garlic, peeled and crushed
½ k onions, peeled and diced
1 k tomatoes, diced
4 bay leaves
½ c olive oil
**Garnish:**
Gherkins, cut in half and sliced thinly

Preheat oven to 190°C or 370°F.

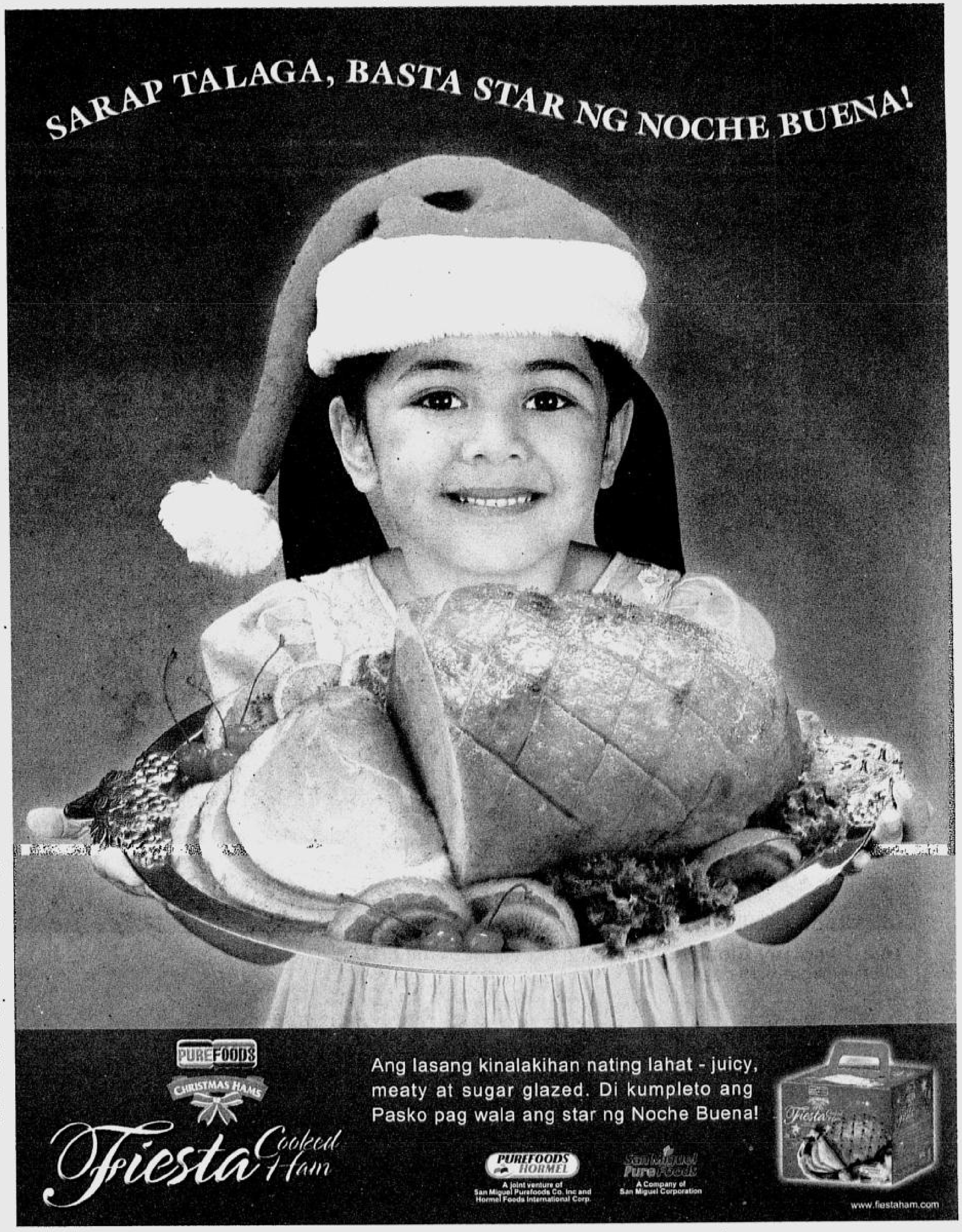
In a large baking dish, lay whole fish. Sprinkle it with salt, pepper, paprika, lemon juice, and rub all over the fish. Combine garlic, onions, tomatoes and bay leaves in a bowl and drizzle with olive oil. Mix thoroughly. Spread remaining mixture all over the fish.

Cover the baking dish with foil and bake in a pre-heated oven for 45 mins or until fish is just done. Remove fish from oven and push the herbs and vegetables aside. Transfer fish into a serving platter. Carefully peel off skin of fish.

Strain juice from the pan and serve on a sauceboat and serve on the side. Arrange gherkin slices over the skinned fish to look like fish scales.

*E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

**THE MOST** extravagant meal of the year



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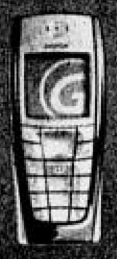

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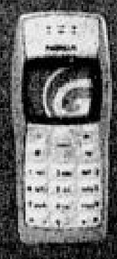

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SUNDAY,
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Sunday
LIFESTYLE

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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

# New e-mail address for Ang Pasko Natin contest

BOY, did we get mail! After we came out with our invitation to you, our readers, to share with us your Christmas traditions, we were deluged with so much e-mail our inbox choked—or whatever it is that inboxes do when they are overfilled.

To solve the problem, we have dedicated an e-mail address to the contest. E-mail your Christmas tradition essay to paskonatin@inquirer.com.ph.

If you emailed your entry to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. before Wednesday, Dec. 10, please e-mail it again to paskonatin@inquirer.com.ph.

Also we are extending the deadline for submission to midnight of Dec. 19.

Remember that your essay about your Christmas traditions should be 3,000 characters or less (not more than 400 words). Include your name, age, address, phone numbers (landline and/or mobile).

Tell us about what you do around Christmastime that is out of the ordinary.

The first prize winner gets to shop for *noche buena* worth P10,000 at Rustan's Supermarket. The second prize is an overnight stay in a deluxe room at the Westin Philippine Plaza and dinner for a family of six at Café Plaza's longest buffet. The third prize is P3,000 worth of call cards.

14 Dec
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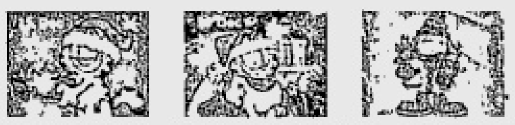

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### FACE TO FACE WITH SANTA

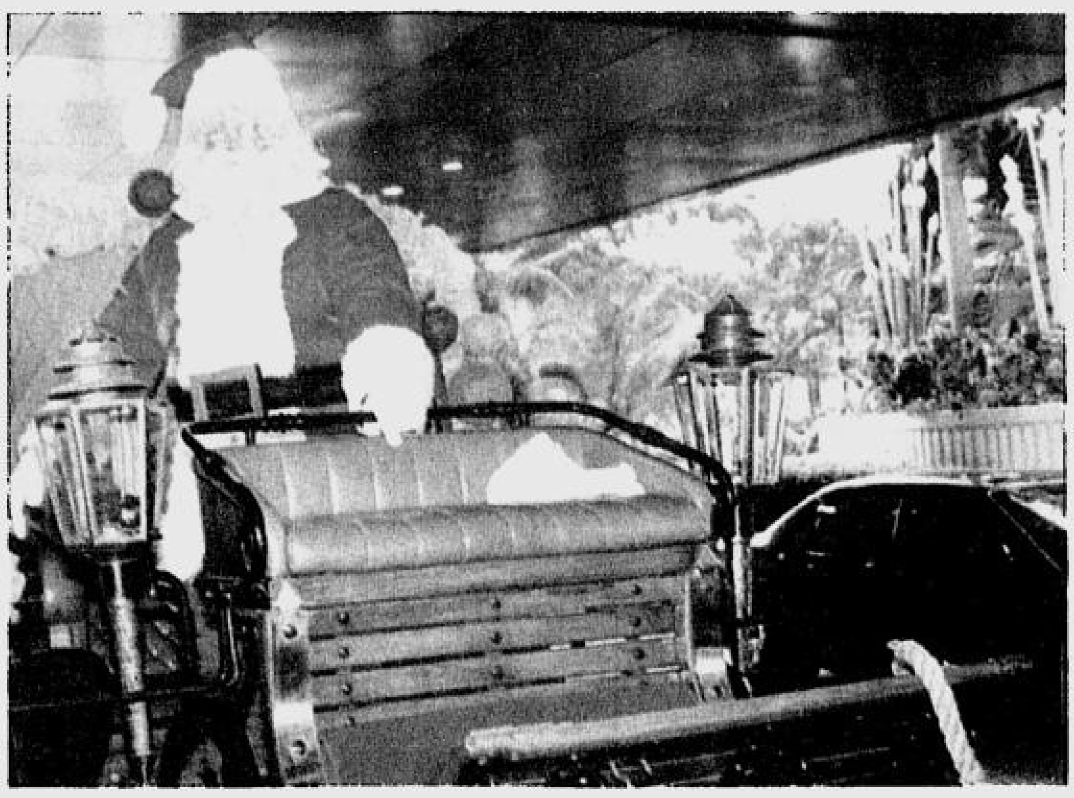
Edsa Shangri-La, Manila celebrates Christmas with fun activities for the whole family.

He's making a list and checking it twice. From Dec. 16-23, meet and greet Santa Claus at the lobby from 6 p.m. -7 p.m. On the 24th and 25th, Santa graces the lobby from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m., children can have their picture taken with Santa and tell him all about their Christmas wishes.

Kids and kids-at-heart are invited to the Storytelling at the Lobby Lounge from 4 p.m.-4:30 p.m. on Dec. 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24. Watch and listen as celebrities like Brad Turvey and Jeff Rodriguez narrate all-time favorite fairy tales.

Then, bring the whole family to the Garden Ballroom for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass at 10 p.m., New Year's Eve Mass at 9 p.m. and New Year's Day Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Edsa Shangri-La, Manila is located at 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. Call 6338888. .



# Musical treats

THIS month, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila will treat its guests to an enchanting musical show dubbed "Christmas in the key of J.'"

Performed by Coro Animo, a De La Salle University Chorale alumni group, the show will be a mini operetta in two acts, consisting of popular international and OPM Christmas songs. The repertoire will include "Twelve Days of Christmas," "Jingle Bells," "Pasko Na Naman," "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit" and other all-time favorite Christmas carols.

Musical director for the mini operetta is Rony Fortich. A graduate of the International School, he is currently a most sought-after musical director, having worked in shows such as "Honk," "Dreamgirls," "Rent" and "Urinetown."

Catch the show at 4/L lobby of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila on Dec. 15, 16 and 21 from 7 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and

ROUTE 70

from 7:45 p.m.-8:

### Choirs and bar

Over at Edsa S the Meralco Ch Lounge with mc from 3 p.m.-4 p.n

**THE BELLEVUE** Hotel celebrates Christmas with attra deals and festive decorations, making it a choice family destination this season.

# Special holiday promos

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the first full-serv business hotel in the Alabang area, cc brates the holiday season through spec promos.

The 12 Days of Christmas Special Dinner Buffet tures different salads, cold selections, soups, carvi hot selections, desserts, cheeses and cold cuts and m others.

The hotel's main dining outlet, the Café D' Asie, have special Christmas lunch and New Year's Eve din buffets. Enjoy the meals with Bellevue's Drink of Month, White Christmas, which comes with a stuffed

A special New Year rate, P2,000+, is being offered 15-Jan. 4. For only P350+, guests can join The Belle Countdown Party on Dec. 31 at the 20/20, the hotel's tertainment center. The entrance ticket covers two s dard drinks, free appetizer for a group of six, surprise fle prizes, and a special show at 10 p.m. The Bellevue tel is in the Filinvest Corporate City. Call 7718181.

### Masses for the holidays

DUSIT Hotel Nikko invites everyone to its special Ma to mark the season.

The traditional Misa de Gallo will be held 5:30 Dec. 16-24 at the lobby. Christmas Eve Mass will be brated at 8 p.m., Dec. 24 at the hotel's Grand Ballro Christmas Day Mass will be at 10 a.m.

The New Year's Eve Mass will be at 8 p.m., Dec while New Year's Day Mass will be at 10 a.m.

Call 8673333.

### International Christmas

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field features Christ around the World. Mequeni Café offers a Europ Christmas while the lobby has become a Mexican vill. The Mongolian Rooftop Restaurant depicts Chi Christmas, the seminar building goes American and 13th Lounge is Filipino.

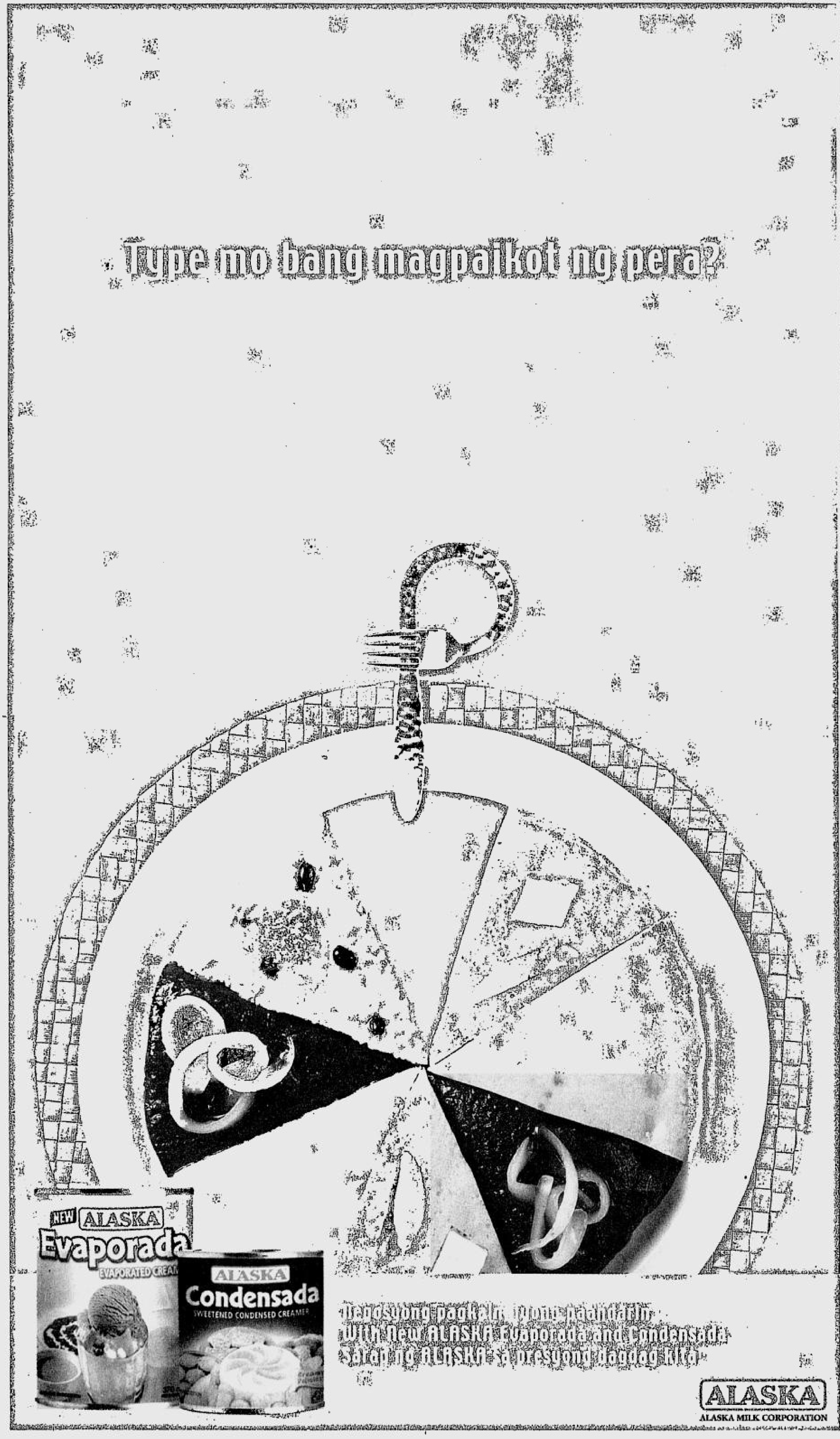
### Treat for kids

MANILA Pavilion shares the spirit of the season with through its Advent Calendar at the Café Coquilla.

The first child to enter Café Coquilla in the mor gets a chance to open the giant Advent Calendar. He will receive a special gift item with a souvenir photo.

Café Coquilla's Advent Calendar opening will be 6:30-10 a.m. every morning starting until Dec. 24.

Call 5261212 local 2318.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The Edsa Shangri-La Chorale will take over from 7 p.m.-7:30 p.m. to serenade restaurant guests with classic and contemporary Christmas songs.

The New Year's festivities at Edsa Shangri-La will also feature powerful performances from Route 70 and Pido with Take One at the Lobby Lounge.

Edsa Shangri-La, Manila is located at 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Call 6338888.

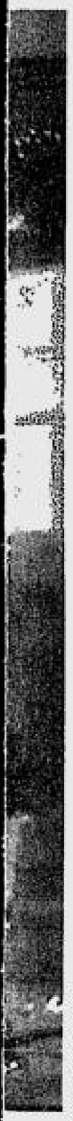
### Christmas fairy tales

One Shang presents the musical "Christmas at Winter Fairyland" by the Kids Act Philippines, Inc. The show is based on beloved fairy tales Snow White, Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, but with an unexpected twist.

It will also feature popular Christmas songs as the musical backdrop.

The Christmas show will be presented at 4 p.m. today and on Dec. 27 at the Grand Atrium, 2/L Shangri-La Plaza, DTI/PRA's "Best Shopping Center of the Year, 2003."

Call 6337851.



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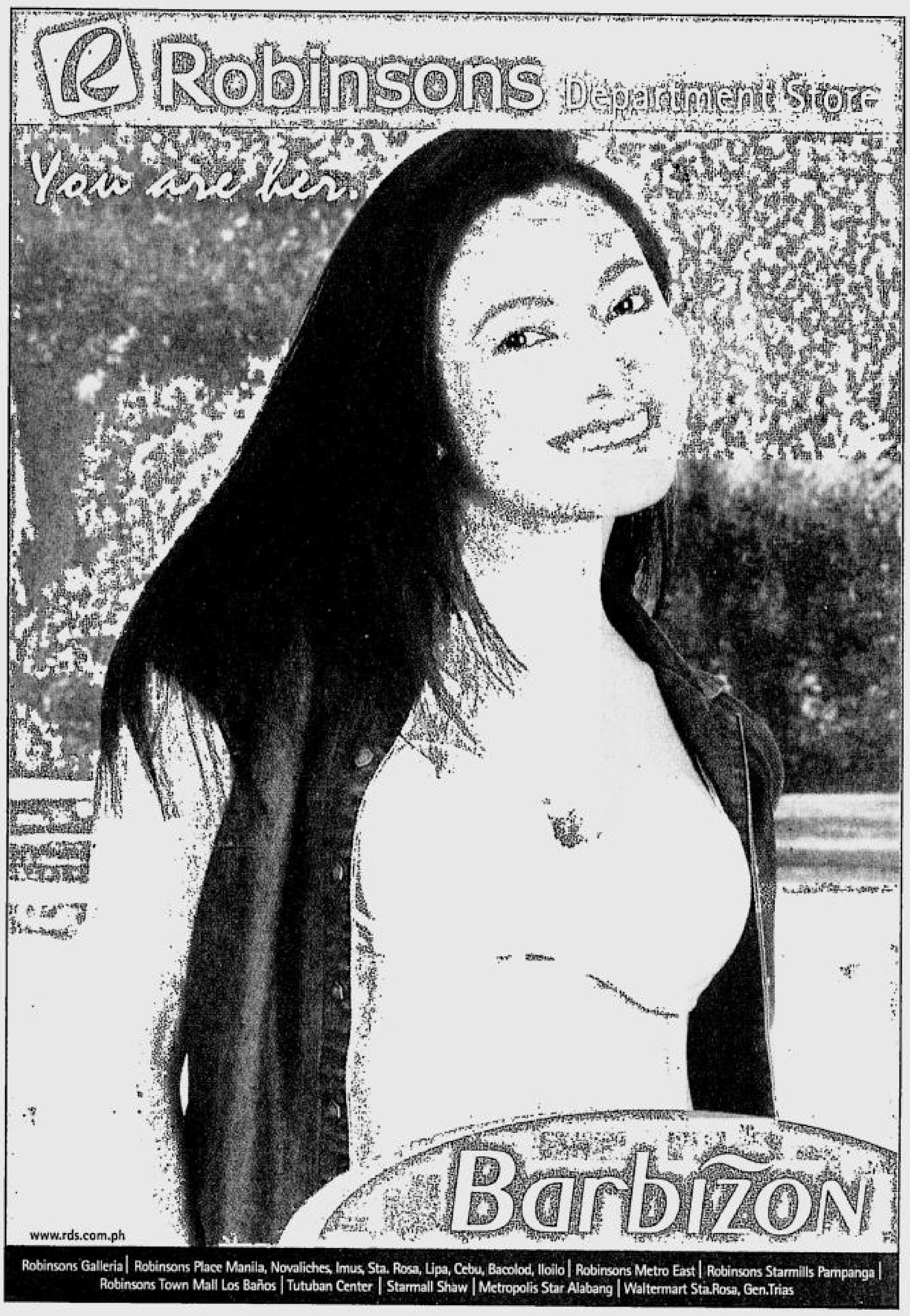

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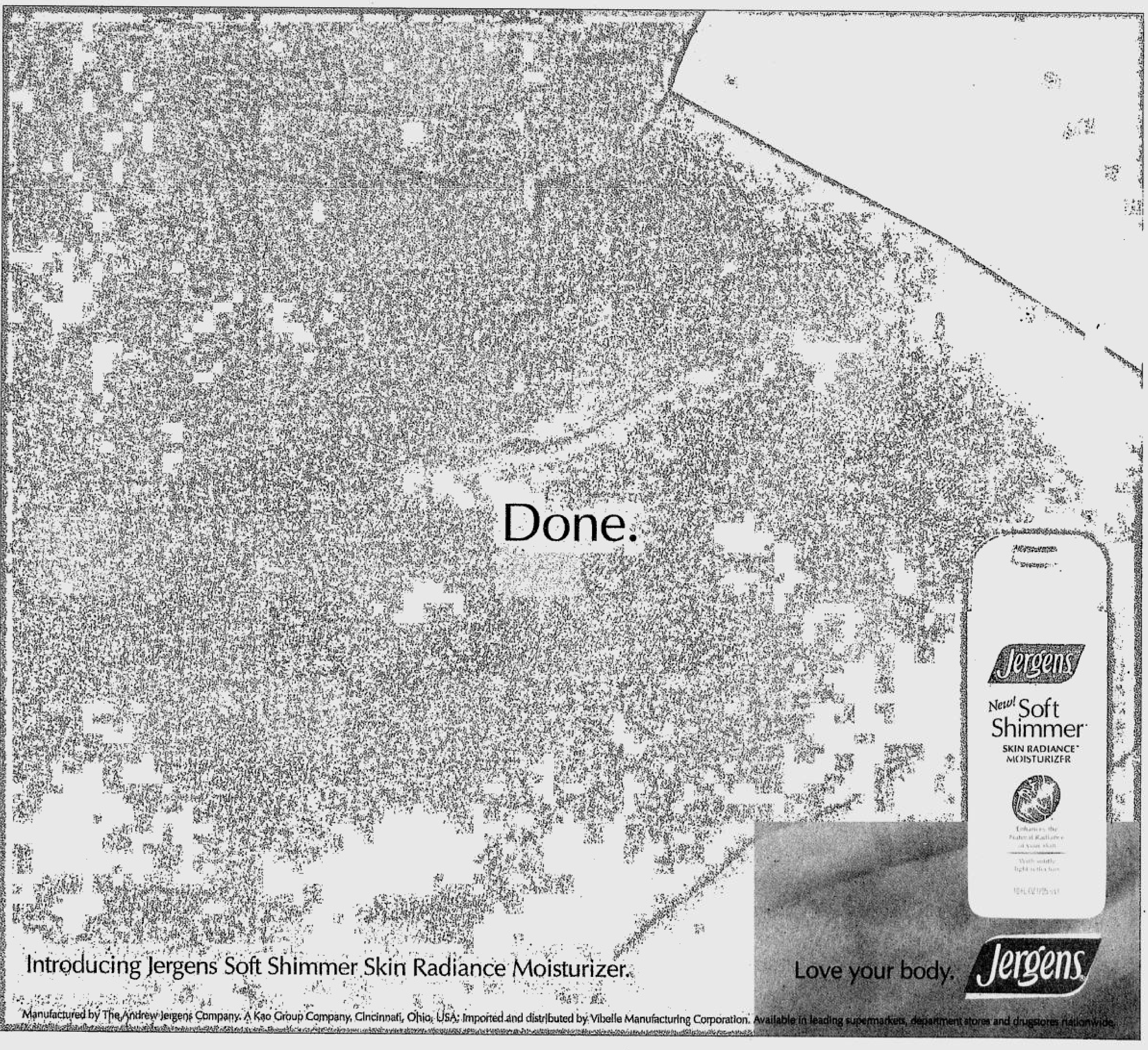

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# How to write holiday letters to loved ones

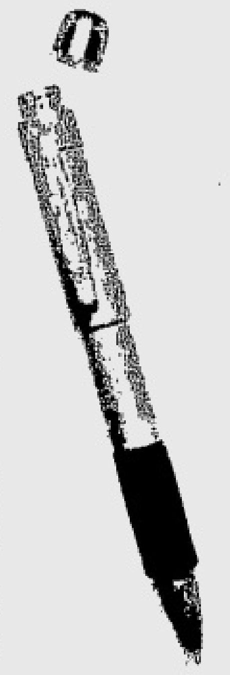
SENDING cards or writing letters to your loved ones this season shouldn't be a dreaded task. Bic, maker of fine writing instruments, shares these simple dos and don'ts to help you get started.

**Dos**

- Be an early bird. Set a goal to have your letters written and sent out as soon as the season kicks in. The early bird gets to enjoy the holidays more fully.
- Consider your audience. Is this letter going to close friends and family? Or to those you're only in touch with once a year? In other words, tailor your letter to those you're writing to.
- Make it a conversation. Write like you're chatting with a close friend or family member—because you are.
- Write with feeling. You're sharing what's important to you with who's important to you. Give yourself permission to write with emotion.
- Use humor. Chances are at least one wacky thing happened to you last year. And chances are that story will add great entertainment value to your letter.
- Edit, edit, edit. Cut the fat—and the heart of your letter will be much more happy and healthy.
- Show off your handwriting. A handwritten letter shows a personalized touch. Chances are the recipient will remember it most.
- End on a high note. Close with warm wishes to your friends and family. Your closing should focus on them, not on you.

**Don'ts**

- Be a braggart. No matter how great your year was, resist the temptation to brag.
- Complain. If you can't think of something nice to say... you know the rest.
- Sweat the details. Think of the last year as a sporting event. Skip the play-by-play and go straight to the highlight reel.
- Gossip. Whatever is on the grapevine should stay there. Share only your own news.
- Announce bad news. Your holiday letter is not the best forum to announce events like separations, deaths, etc.



With these easy tips from Bic, writing that holiday letter will be a breeze. Bic ballpoint pens, gel pens and mechanical pencils are available at all National Book Store branches nationwide and other leading retail outlets.

# *Holiday sale on home items*

THE HOME Center, a one-stop home improvement hub at Eastwood City, is holding a Christmas sale until today from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., with selected furniture, décor, accessories and novelty items going for as much as 50-percent off.

Participating shops include Benelco Arts, Bodyfood Bath and Body Products, Bright Ideas, Designer Blooms, Diseños Alegria, Elite Arts and Frames, Grassroots, Index Furniture Center, Justin's Treasures, Koga, Lanelle Abueva-Fernando Studio Pottery, Lising Crafts, Pendulon, Pottery Exchange, Sifra Arts and Crafts, Studio Eleven and Unna Moebel.

The Home Center is located along Orchard Road in Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), QC. Call 8678913 to 17.

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Promo runs from October 27, 2003 to February 29, 2004.
*Approved by DTI-NCR. PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 3175, SERIES OF 2003.

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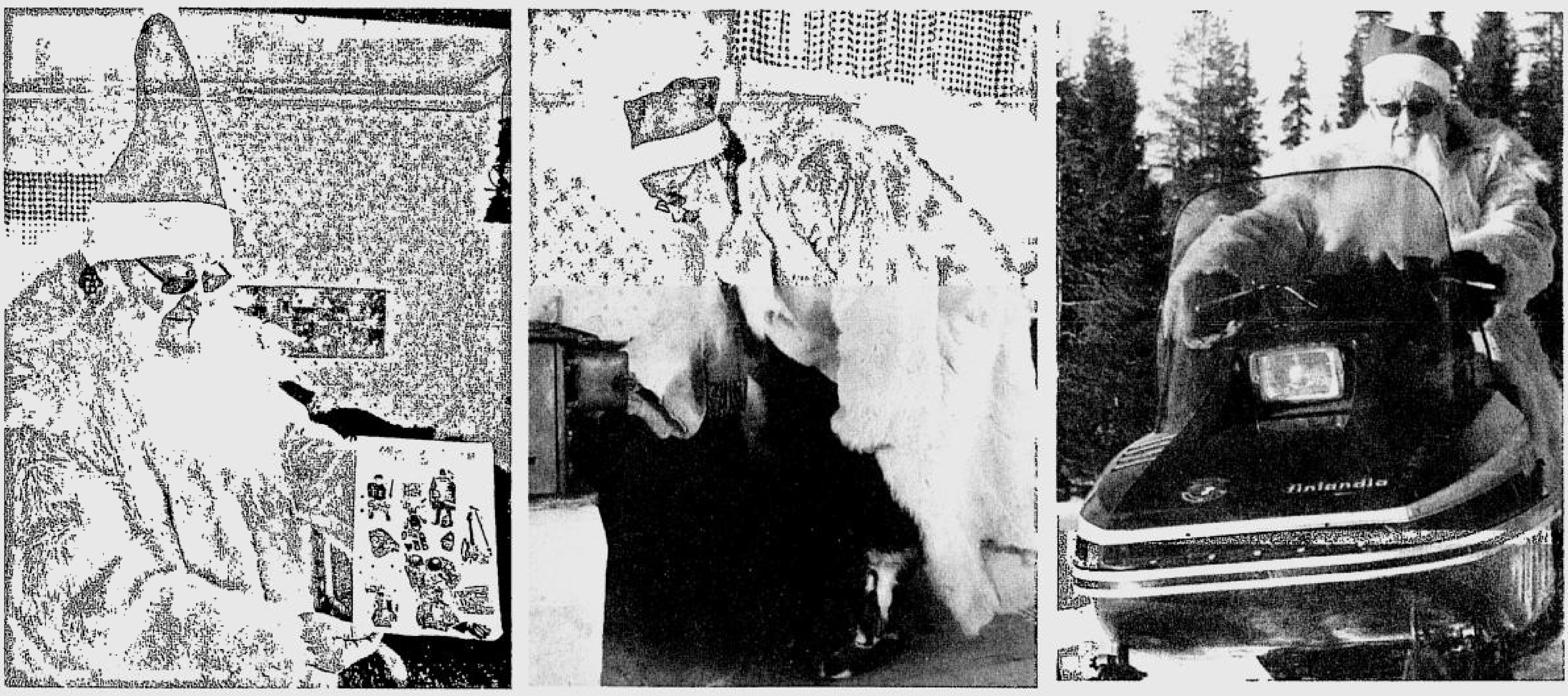
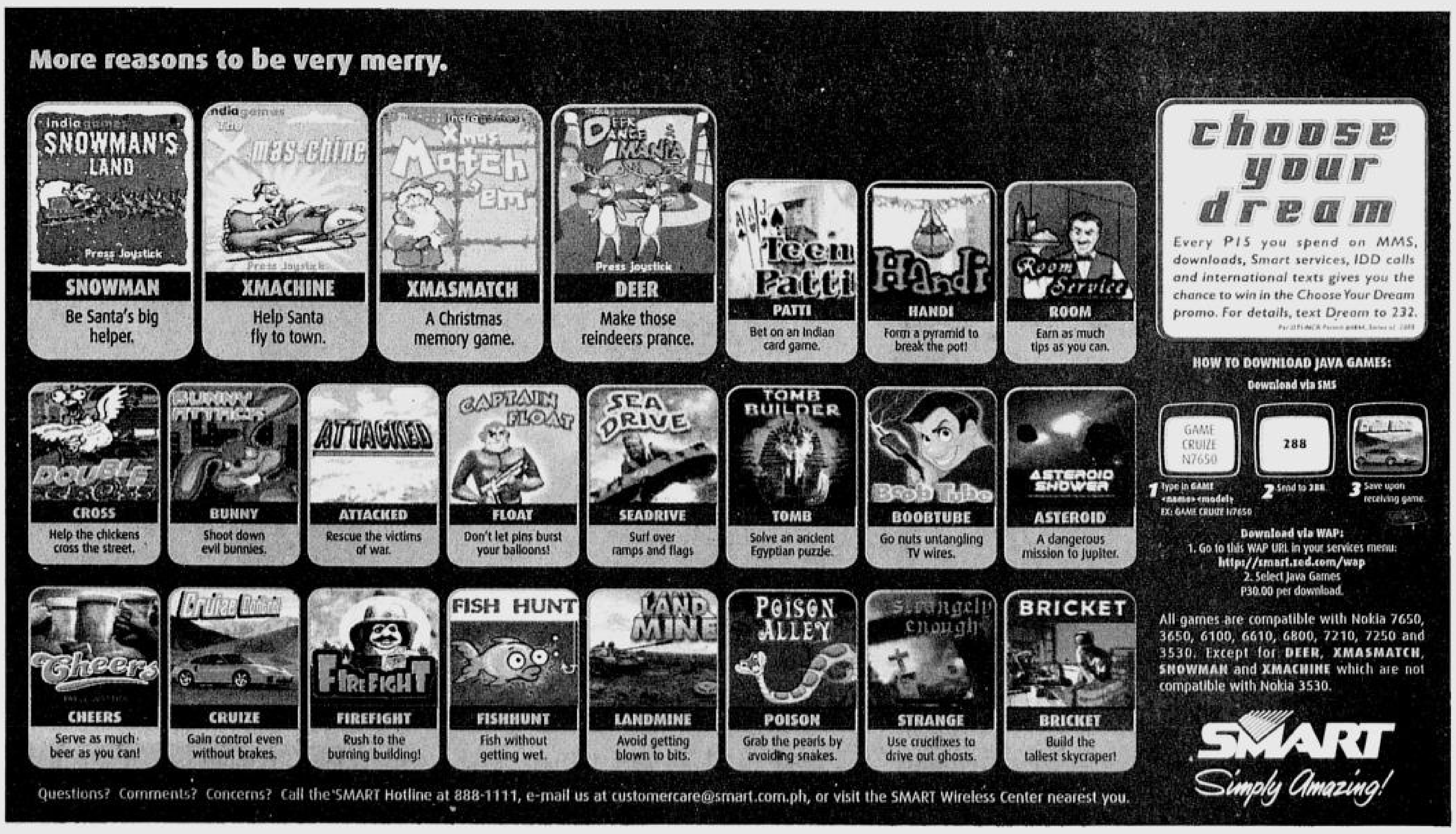
# It ain't easy being Santa



**SWEDEN'S** Santa Claus holds a boy's wish list (left)—one of thousands sent to him—at his home in Granberger outside Arvidsjaur. Although the temperature is sub-zero so that he has to heat up his home more (middle), Santa is worried about the lack of snow which makes it more difficult for him to use his sleigh (right). And because the European Union has declared his town a heritage site, he has to cut grass the old-fashioned way and even chase the reindeer away because they damage the vegetation. So if Santa doesn't visit your kid this Christmas, please know he tried his best. AFP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ATTACKED
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FLOAT
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TOMB
Solve an ancient Egyptian puzzle.

BOOBTUBE
Go nuts untangling TV wires.

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Serve as much beer as you can!

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# Marriage of style and function

**By Belle V. Bondoc**

EYEWEAR has become a valuable accessory in projecting an image a person wants to create for himself or herself. It has gone beyond its functional role as protective eye gear.

The demand for new eyewear products continues to increase, and the latest to make a "spectacle" in the business is Fly Wear, an affordable brand exclusively distributed by Business Laboratories, Inc. (BLI).

The four young entrepreneurs behind the Fly Wear brand are confident the growing eyewear market will be able to handle one more player.

**NEW** eyewear brand caters to a younger market.

**WITH** the right eyewear, girls can change their looks from daring to adorable, sophisticated to *maldita*, while men can go from naïve, boy-next-door to wild and hunky.

## Target market

Fly Wear specifically targets young people who make up a big segment of the market.

"We appeal to the young and trendy aged 16-30," says Eugene Chua, chief executive officer of BLI.

These people may not have the purchasing power yet but they want a brand that will carry their message and articulate their needs and desires, he adds.

"But we're also repositioning the brand among mature people with the right attitude," says Jenni Gonzales, the brand's marketing consultant.

The brand is designed for ordinary consumers who want quality and style without having to pay a steep price. At P195-P350 a pair, consumers not only can afford the eyewear but may even be able to own more than one pair."

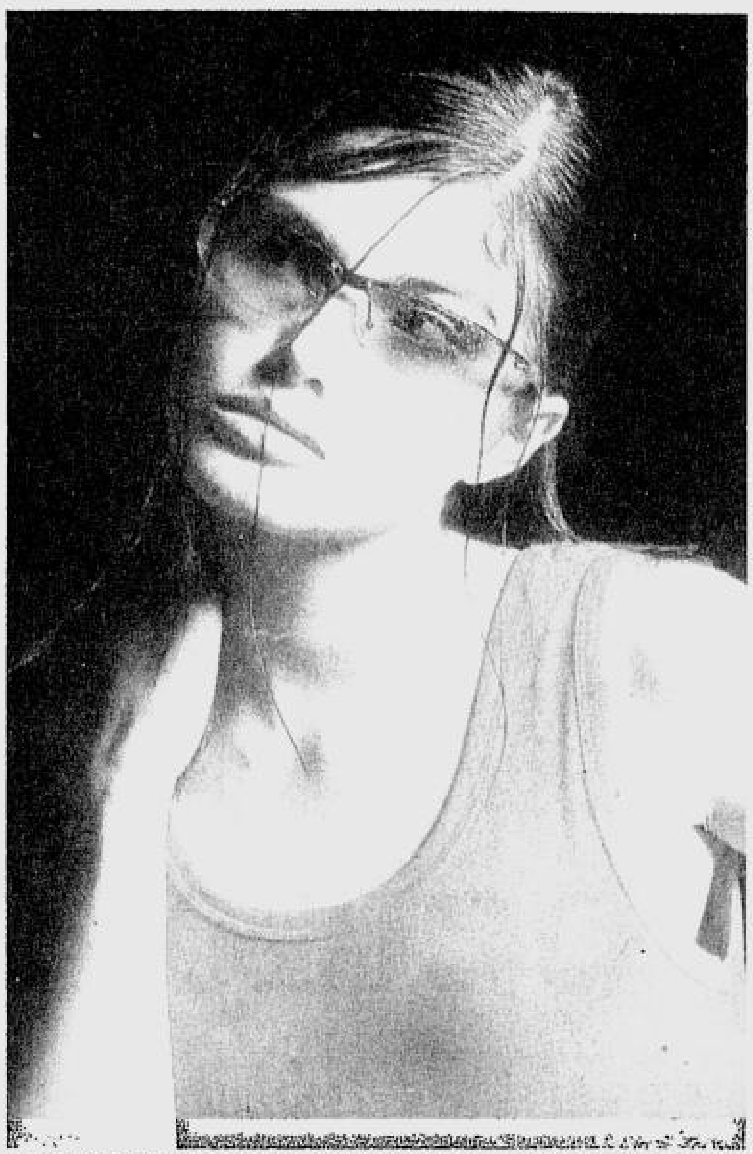
In fact, ordinary people can now afford four sets of eyeglasses for only about P1,000-1,500," says Gonzales.

## Not just fashionable

The brand's amazingly wide range of styles has a common thread: a sleek, sophisticated European feel but with an all-American sense of practicality and function.

Chua says the manufacturers of Fly Wear are the same people who supply Gucci in Europe.

Fly Wear uses lightweight but strong materials. Designs are updated depending on trends and seasons because Fly Wear believes the needs of consumers change from time to time.


**THE BRAND** makes eyepieces for women who want to feel modern, elegant and in control.

Every pair offers UV400 protection, the highest level of protection needed by the eyes against the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

Frames bank on comfort and firm grip. Each pair comes with anti-slip temple tips, and high-grade silicon nose pads.

Most have flex hinges that protect the sunglasses from breakage or being deformed. They also protect the frames from corrosion and abrasion.

## Different styles

Fly Wear has many different styles in different colors and shades to suit different types of personalities.

"Because we believe that eyeglasses should also match one's mood and clothing, we give people choices," says Chua.

Unlike other affordable brands, which have limited choices of colored lenses, Fly Wear has a wide range including ultra-bright colors to suit every person's changing moods.

Colored lenses with discreet designs are also available for kids 13 years old and below. These they can wear at play.

Fly wear will be formally launched today with a fashion show featuring television/movie personlalities at the 50th Avenue, East Wing Robinsons Galleria.

Customers will get a 20-percent discount on all Fly Wear products until Dec. 31. For every purchase of Fly Wear, a customer gets a cute pouch and a paper bag.

Fly Wear kiosks are located in Robinsons Galleria; Robinsons Big R Center Cainta; Robinsons Place Novaliches; Robinsons Place Lipa; Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa; Robinsons Starmills Pampanga; Festival Supermall; and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

*Email the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph*

**THE FLY** Wear lady seeks to express her confident sensuality.

# Silver beyond the season

GALLERY 925 at The Podium offers a refreshing collection of stylish accessories in sterling silver and colorful stones.

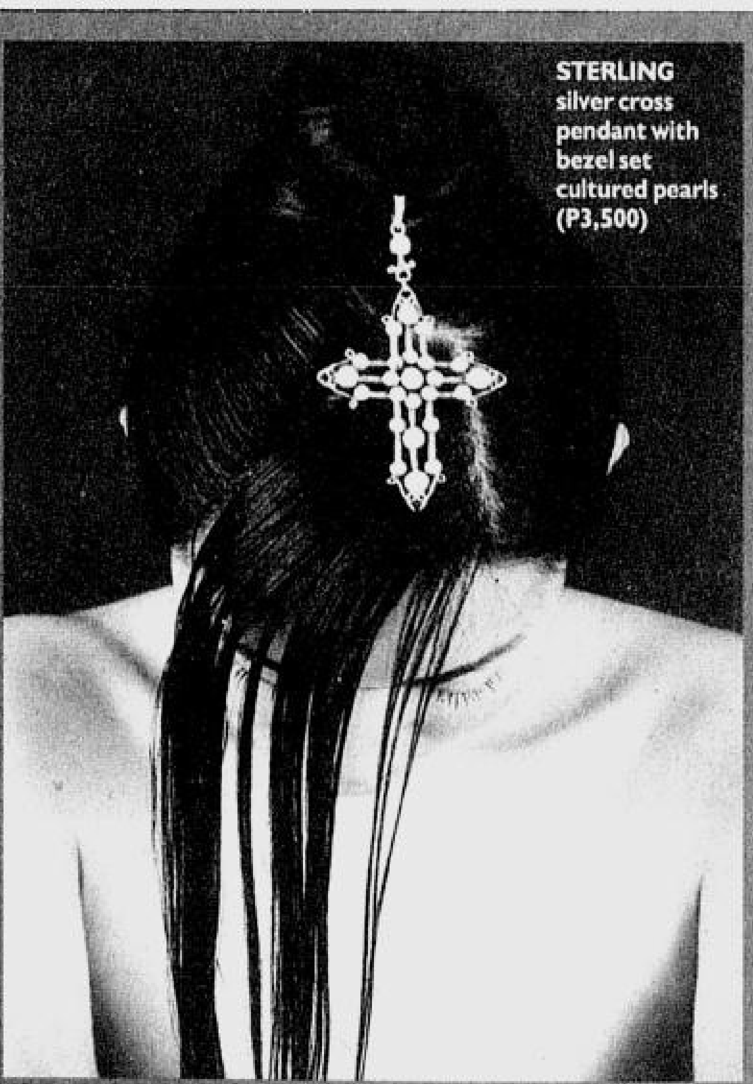
The collection includes pieces designed by in-house jewelry designer and photographer Dulzzi Gutierrez and imported brands like Italy's Xenia and timeless pieces by Mexican designers Mauricio Serrano and Daniel Espinosa.

The store has chandelier earrings, colored necklaces, rings and oversized pendants, stylish jewelry that can be worn day and night. Colorful jewelry with stones like topaz, amber and turquoise are chic and affordable and can be worn even after the holiday season.

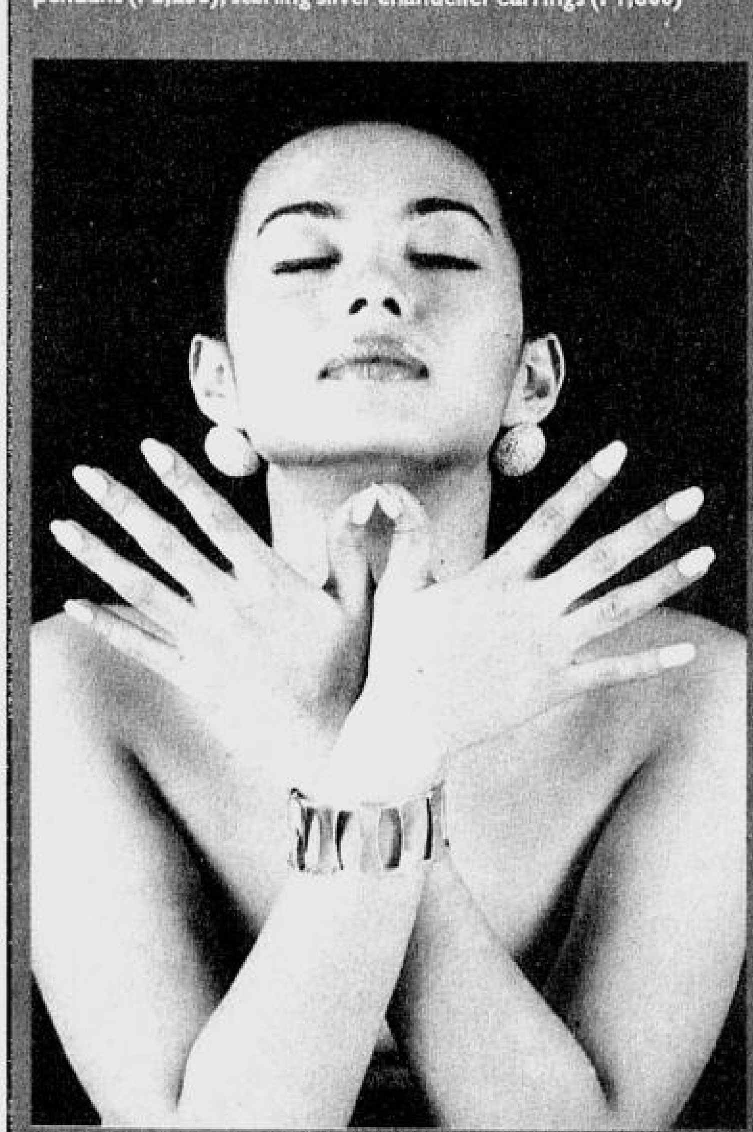
Gallery 925, owned by the same family behind the Silverworks Stores, targets a sophisticated clientele with its select and distinctive designs.

It is located at the ground floor of The Podium in Ortigas Center. Call 6349307.

**15K** cubic zirconia ring (P1,650); pearl-shaped bezel set zirconia pendant (P2,250); sterling silver chandelier earrings (P1,600)


**STERLING** silver cross pendant with bezel set cultured pearls (P3,500)

**STERLING** silver necklace with tourmaline amethyst and aquamarine stones (P16,500); matching bracelet (P1,500)


**CLIP-ON** stud earrings with pavé set cubic zirconia (P3,300); sterling silver cutout bangle (P1,950)

**MULTI-STRAND** blue topaz drop earrings (P6,800)

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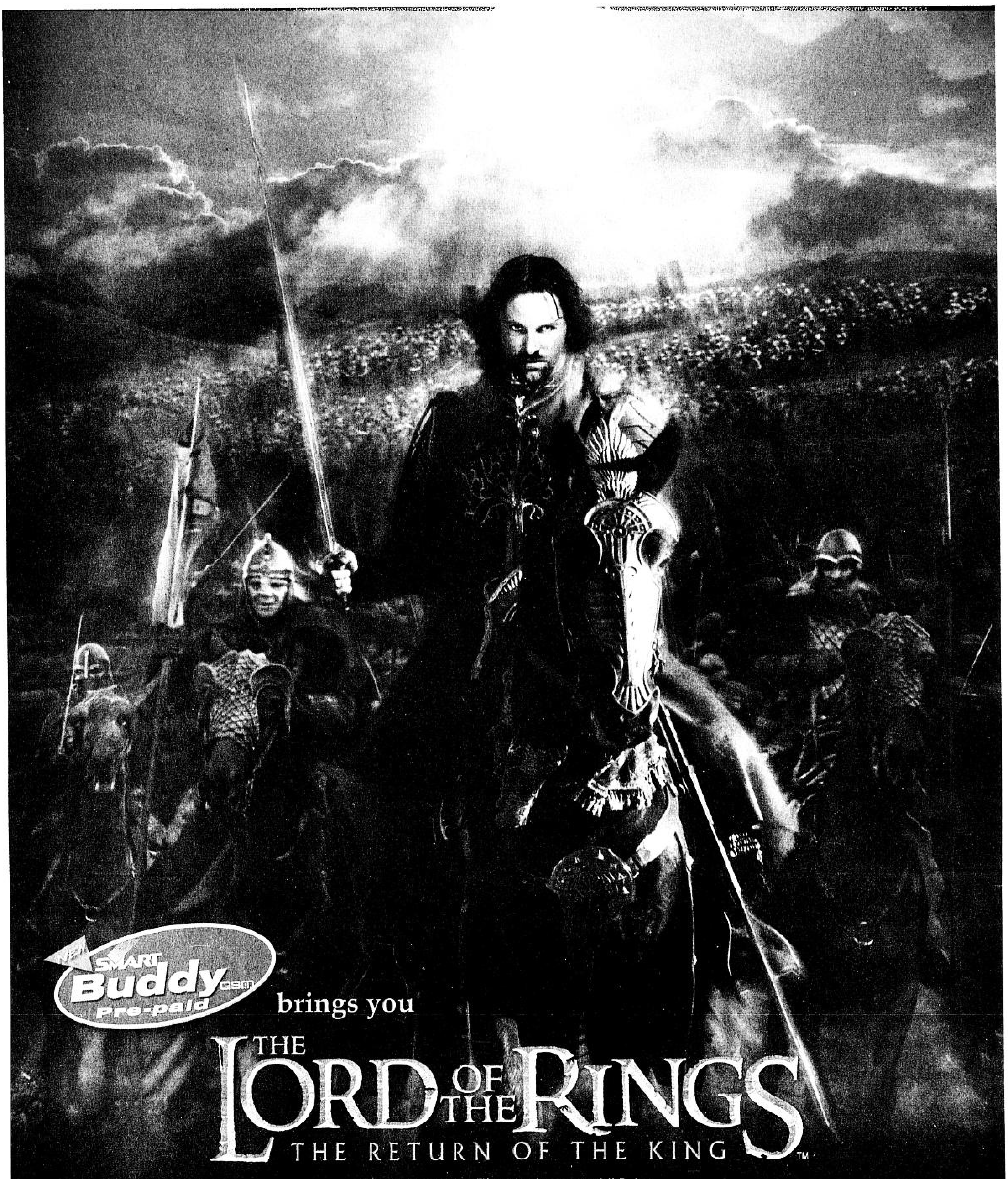
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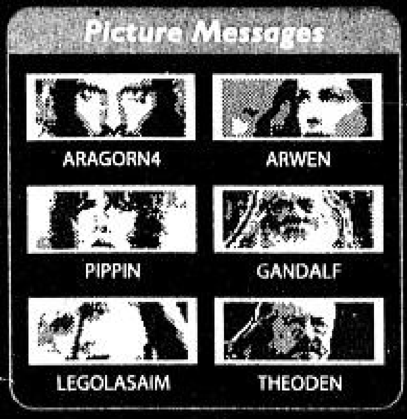
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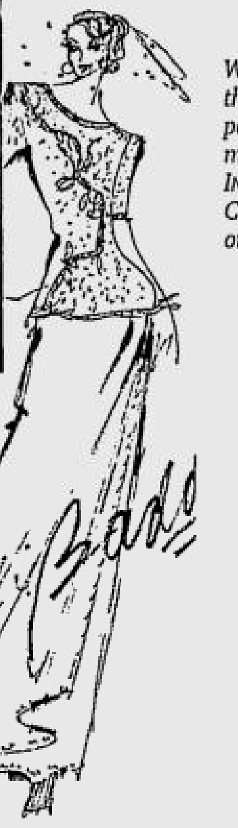
## Milestones

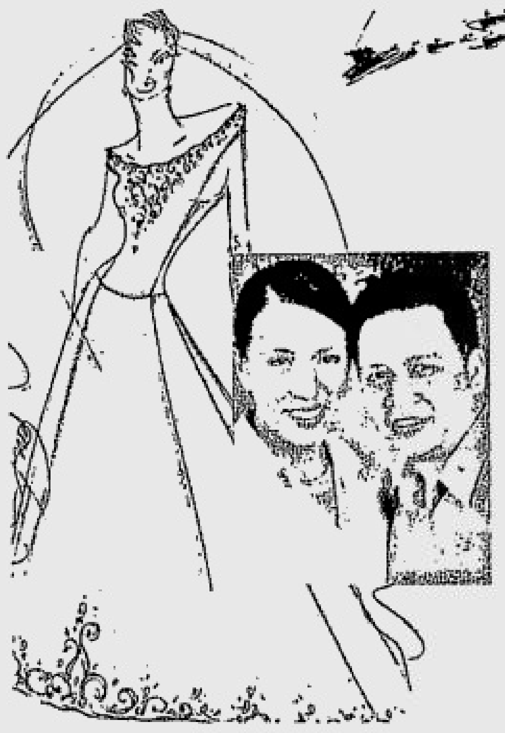
*We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the* INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



### RONQUILLO 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**Lawyer Florencio** and **Paulita Ronquillo** will renew their marriage vows to mark their 50th golden wedding anniversary on Dec. 23, 10 a.m., at the St. Rita of Cascia Parish, Philamhomes, QC. Reception follows at the Philam clubhouse. Joining the celebration are their children **Boots, Raul, Chen, Cecile** and **Helen**; children-in-law **Gene, Lucy, Joel, Dennis** and **Leo**; grandchildren **Eugenie, Chuckie, Gabriel, Emil, Paolo, Czarina, Denise, Angeline, Isabelle, Christiana** and **Leanne**.

The bride will wear a champagne gold gown in frosted silk and metallic gold material designed and executed by couturier **Eddie Baddeo**. It has a fully beaded bodice and appliqués of the same cloth, and draping overlap skirt.



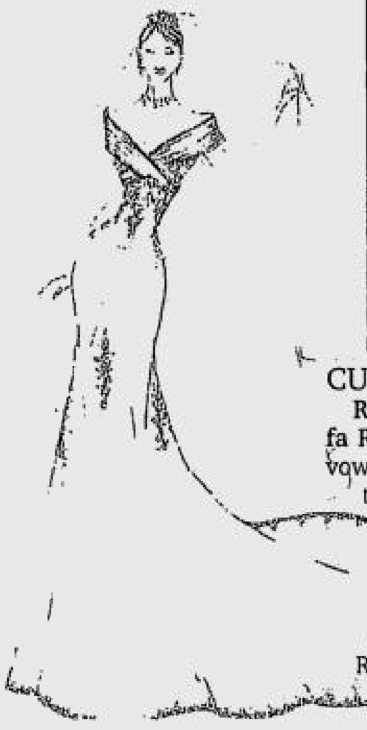
### GONZALES-DIZON

Dr. **Raul Gonzales**, son of **Angel** and **Rosa Gonzales**, and Dr. **Nerissa Dizon**, daughter of **Jose** and **Norma Dizon**, will exchange vows today at Paco Park, Manila. Reception will follow at Patio Victoria in Intramuros. **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage.

### ALISANGCO-VERGEL DE DIOS

**Putri Nur Jihan Rahma Abbas Vergel de Dios**, daughter of Urban Poor Commissioner **Mohammad Isa Vergel de Dios** of Bulacan and **Bai Hannan Laila Abbas of Lanao**, will marry in Islamic and civil rites **Abdul Rahman Charliemagne Alisangco**, son of Police Sr. Insp. **Alejandro Alisangco** of Pangasinan and **Zenaida David** of Pampanga.

The ceremonies will be held 7 p.m. today at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel.



### CUYA-PANGAN

**Ramon Cuya**, son of **Ma. Josefa Ramirez Cuya**, will exchange vows with **Karen Pangan**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Teodoro Pangan**, on Dec. 20 at the St. John the Evangelist Cathedral, Dagupan City. Reception will follow at the Justin Hall of Leisure Coast Resort.

### VILLANUEVA-MORALES

**Edward R. Villanueva**, son of prosecutor **Solomon** and Dr. **Edna Villanueva**, will exchange vows with **Joy D. Morales**, daughter of **Felimon** and **Aurelia Morales**, on Dec. 20 at the St. Augustine Church, Mendez, Cavite. The bride will wear a gown by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day.

### RODRIGUEZ-RESURRECCION

**Patrick Rodriguez**, son of **Alfredo** and **Carmen Rodriguez**, wed **Hazel Resurreccion**, daughter of **Emmanuel** and **Marilyn Resurreccion**, on Dec. 13 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

### BERNARDINO-TAPEL

**Roderick Bernardino**, son of **Natividad Abellera vda. de Bernardino**, will marry **Racquel Tapel**, daughter of **Ramon** and **Aida Tapel**, on Dec. 20 at the San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Las Piñas. Reception will be at the Campbil Garden, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas.

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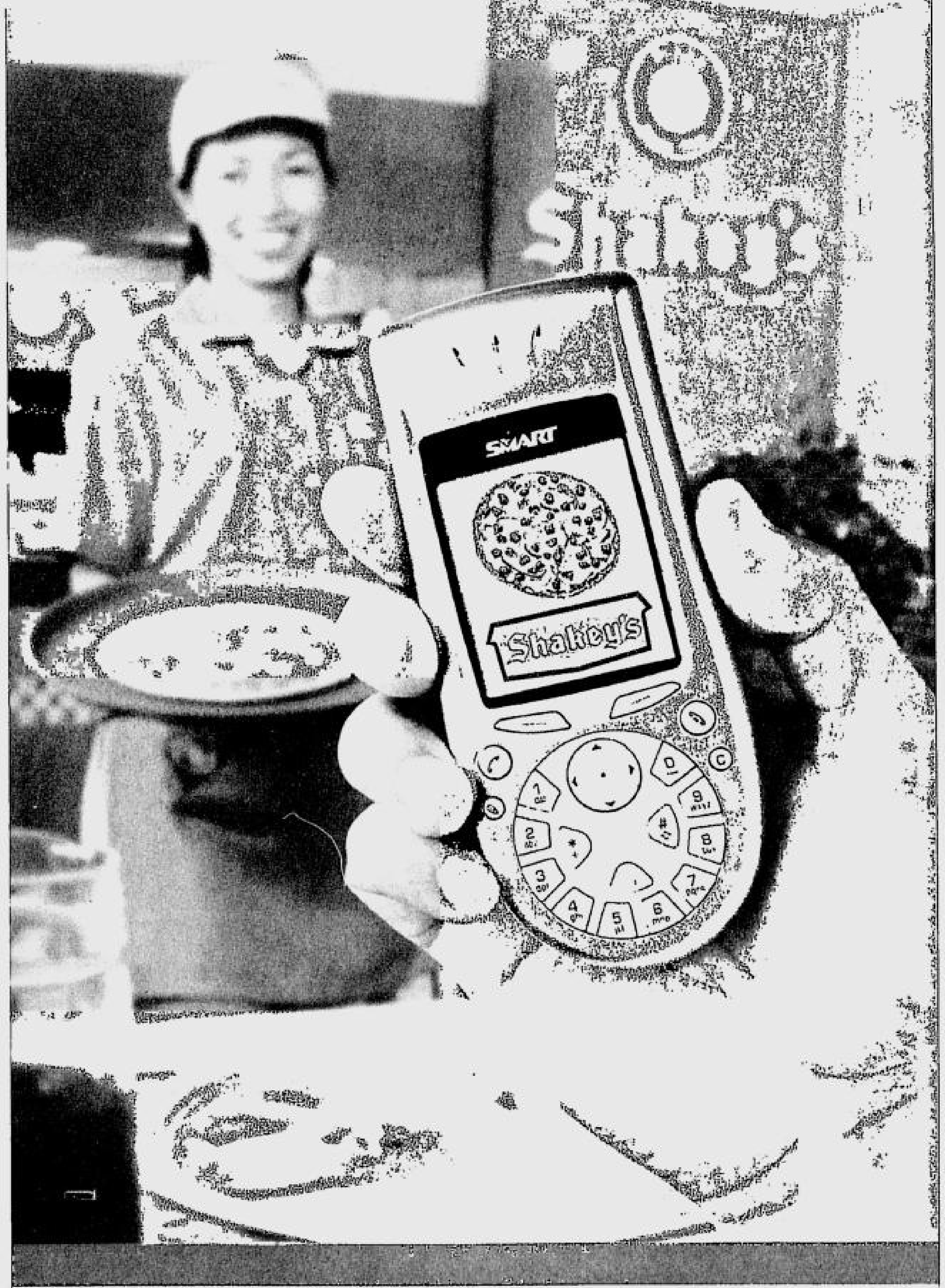

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# TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

# Calm in Caylabne

**Text and photos by Marlet D. Salazar**

For a province that has shown all signs of 'progress,' Cavite has some refreshing sights left

THE SIGHT of the lush trees steals my concentration from the book I am reading. It is not every day that I get a chance to see green.

Then there are the mountains.

Amazingly, for a province that has shown all signs of "progress," what with shopping malls popping up here and there, Cavite has some refreshing sights left.

I am a proud native of this province but I have never been in this part of Ternate. I did not even know that somewhere in this place sits a resort perfect for introspection.

The colors of nature compete for my attention. The blue sea surrounds the cove, which is covered with all shades of green trees setting off the almost-white-almost-brown sand.

The panoramic view of the cove that shelters the Caylabne Bay Resort magically erases my feeling of weariness. From the lookout café we descend to where the villas are.

For a moment, I quiz myself: In what country have I seen this type of villa? I am stumped, so I decide to set aside the thought. I'm here to be in touch with myself, after all.

Walking helps me think. As I go past the statues—of angels, women, children—I suddenly realize that the villas resemble Italian houses with roofs of terra cotta tiles. Flower paths and hedges surround the whole line of villas.

I relax momentarily at the patio facing the courtyard. I scribble some notes while watching other guests in the resort pass by, and then I decide that an afternoon nap wouldn't hurt.

NATURE act

I close the shutters of the room big enough for a family of four, and let Bolipata music lull me to sleep.

I wake recharged, and take off for a walk. My feet take me to the road that, I later learn, leads to the Marina Bar. Whoever thought up the architectural idea of putting the bar at the far end of the cove must have a deep understanding of people who shun noise, who treasure silence.

The road lies empty and I am somewhat relieved. A lone man is fishing and I feel both amusement and worry. He does not move for a few minutes. And then, there: A poor fish is caught.

Across from me lies the beach. I could use the company of strangers, I think. But happy thoughts play in my mind as I feel the afternoon breeze on my face. Waters, blue waters, pink, green... I am snatched from my contemplation when I realize that I am seeing discarded plastic bags floating on the waters.

A stop at the El Patio Restaurant, where guests converge for meals, gives me a chance to lie back and watch the sea. I have a perfect view of Corregidor island from where I sit. I scribble some verses on my notepad. Words are flowing like rain: "As life goes..."

Vrrrrmmmm! Now what's that? Ah, a jet ski.

Undaunted, I go on with my reflections. It's a pleasure to see people interact with one another, barriers slowly dropping.

On the shore, the children proudly display their creations on the sand. Not too far away from the beach are two pairs having a ball with aqua bikes. Then comes a man in a kayak, oblivious of the madding crowd. He is, I suppose, waiting for the sun to set.

**ITALIAN-INSPIRED** villa amid the green

**WATER** and stone

The sun turns a little shy and hides behind the mountains. Nevertheless, it produces magnificent colors that delight the guests.

Later, dinner by the poolside displays the diversity of the weekend visitors at the Caylabne Bay Resort—a group of friends, women attending a seminar, but mostly families engaging in bonding and quality time.

The resort employees' cultural presentation does me proud, particularly when a Japanese (or was it Korean?) woman vainly attempted to do the *tinikling*.

The stillness of the night makes it perfect for a walk. I bide my time, mindful of the fact that it is only here that I can do an evening stroll without fear. The lights in the basketball court indicate that my male colleagues are sweating it out.

The cool air is just what I need to make me sleepy.

At dawn, the sun is elusive. I do not catch the much awaited sunrise. But a morning walk by the shore is truly refreshing. (I'm not alone: Early risers are taking a dip.)

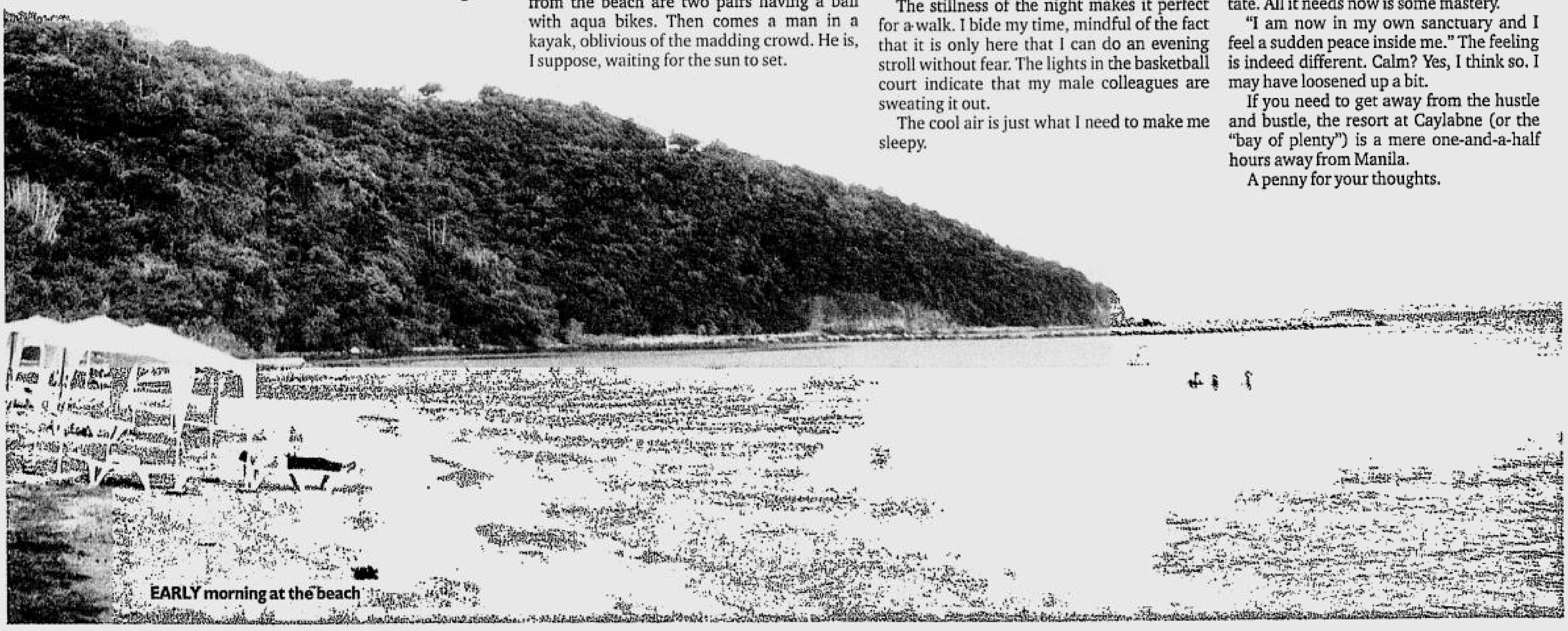
Down at the landing hut overlooking the entire cove, wellness guru Cory Quirino gives a pep talk on meditation and leads us through breathing exercises.

I am neither a fan nor a skeptic on things like this. But the exercises give me an opportunity to learn a simple way to meditate. All it needs now is some mastery.

"I am now in my own sanctuary and I feel a sudden peace inside me." The feeling is indeed different. Calm? Yes, I think so. I may have loosened up a bit.

If you need to get away from the hustle and bustle, the resort at Caylabne (or the "bay of plenty") is a mere one-and-a-half hours away from Manila.

A penny for your thoughts.


**EARLY** morning at the beach

## TRAVELBRIEFS

### Holiday specials

STAYING PUT for the holidays but planning something special? Check out these choices offered by various hotels:

At the Seven Suites Hotel Observatory nestled on the foothills of Antipolo City, guests who will book for two nights automatically get another night for free. The offer is valid until Dec. 31 and covers breakfast and use of the hotel facilities.

On New Year's Eve, guests will be treated to a sumptuous buffet at the deck overlooking the metropolis. (Those who reserve early will be given an hour of aromatherapy massage.)

Hotel guests may go swimming, use the Jacuzzi, have a massage, or scrutinize the night sky at the Observatory.

Seven Suites will also have a "Bearry Merry Christmas" for the benefit of orphaned children. When you buy a pair of Seven Suites' Teddy Bears at P550, one bear will be given to these kids for the holidays. The hotel will likewise present gift packs to nearby indigent communities during the season.

Call 677-5401 to 02 and 240-5093 or e-mail sevensuites@cravingsgroup.com.

* * *

AT THE OXFORD Suites on Durban corner P. Burgos Streets, Makati City, guests may choose any of its 232 suites and be treated to amenities like breakfast for two, welcome drinks and even movie tickets and snacks at Rockwell Power Plant for two, including a two-way shuttle.

The tie-up with the upscale shopping mall is a perfect solution for guests who want to shop in comfort and style while completing their Christmas lists. (Later, they can unwind by having dinner with friends and catching a movie.)

The boutique hotel, located in the heart of Makati's business district, is walking distance from a number of restaurants and bars.

It has function rooms for business conferences and seminars, a business center and a fully equipped gym, as well as Dream Cable Satellite, room service, laundry and pressing service, and airport transfers.

The promo period extends to Jan. 15. Call 6700-3333 or 897-0548, or visit www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com.

* * *

AT THE HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila in the Ortigas Center, Pasig City, an Enchanting Holidays room package is offered for families of four at P3,900++.

The package covers deluxe room accommodations with buffet breakfast at the Raphael Café for parents and their children aged under 12. Plus, guests are entitled to two passes (upper box A) to the Disney on Ice "Beauty and the Beast" show at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. Additional tickets purchased through the hotel during their stay are subject to a 5-percent discount.

Disney room package guests are also entitled to join the hotel's holiday raffle for "Beauty and the Beast" toy models and other Disney toys.

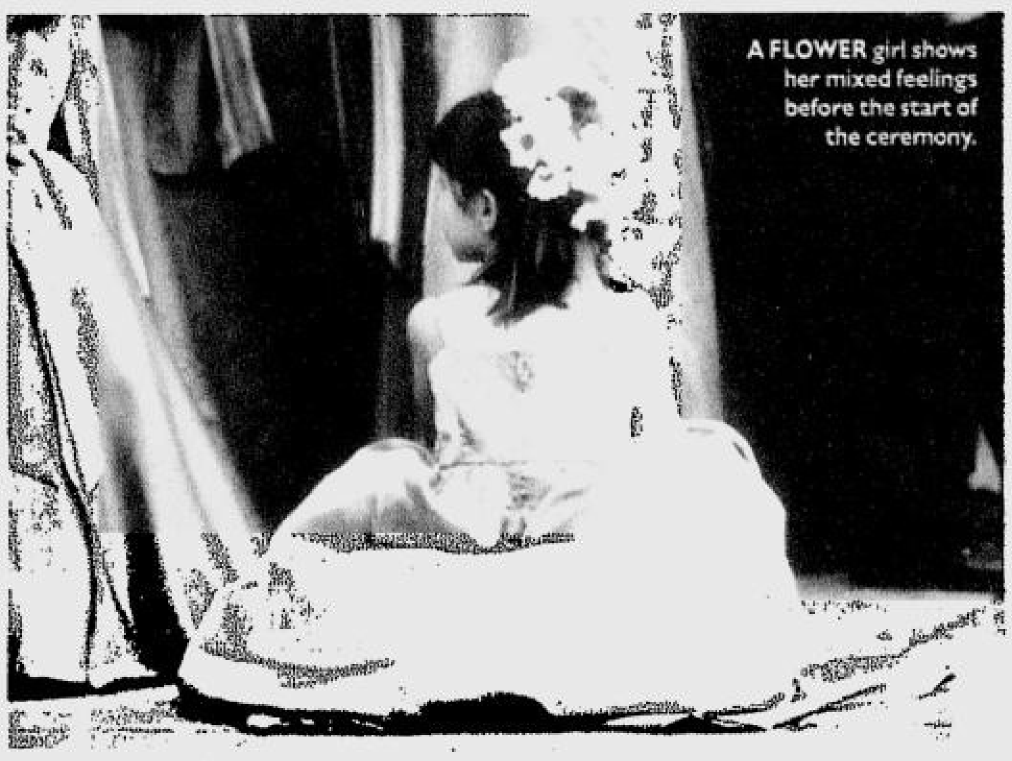
The package is available for local and foreign residents until Dec. 31.

Call (63-2) 633-7111 local 7400 or 7402, fax to (63-2) 633-2821 or e-mail reservation@holiday-inn.galleria-mla.com.

### Travel Tour Expo 2004

THE 11TH Travel Tour Expo spearheaded by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association and set on Feb. 6-8 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City has drawn the participation of notable companies including Equitable Card, which recently signed up as the official credit card of TTE 2004.

Present at the contract signing were Annette Feliciano, overall chair of TTE 2004; Lucille Chabeldin, co-chair of the TTE and president of the PTTA; Eugenio Hernando, senior EVP of the Equitable Card Network Inc., and Trippy, the official mascot of the Expo.



**A FLOWER** girl shows her mixed feelings before the start of the ceremony.

**YOUNG** male entourage members keep themselves busy by inspecting a wedding arrhae.

# Wedding images on exhibit

**A YOUNG** boy yawns halfway through the rites.

**BUTTERFLY-INSPIRED** gowns of flower girls catch the attention of a little boy.

CHILDREN add life to a wedding. They display all kinds of emotions—boredom and irritability, but also fun, excitement and wonder at the frills and finery of the proceedings.

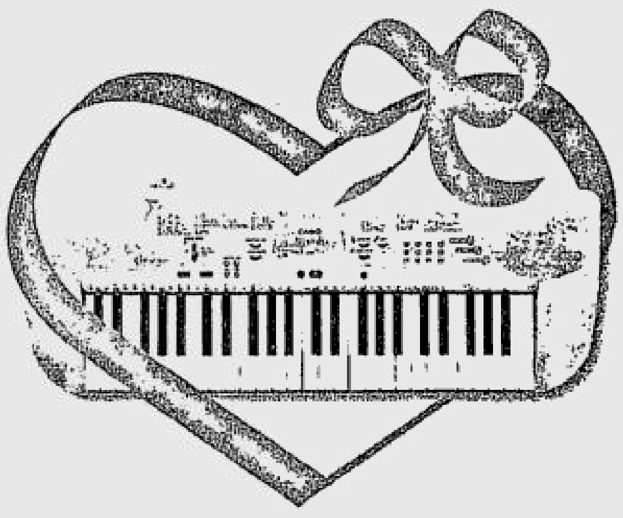
Wedding photojournalist Mel Cortez will showcase pictures of children at weddings in a black-and-white reportage photography exhibition at the Alcove Gallery of the Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Triangle, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Dubbed as "Wedding... Through the Eyes of a Photojournalist," 20 selected storytelling images, including the recent wedding of TV personalities Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao, will be on display until Dec. 23.

As a former staff digital photojournalist of BusinessWorld, Cortez is a pioneer in the application of digital photography in mainstream broadsheet publishing, and is also credited as the first "true-blue" digital photojournalist who has joined the high-end wedding photography industry.

He is the chief wedding photojournalist of DecisiveMoments, which has offered wedding photojournalism since 2001.

Cortez's reportage wedding photographs can be viewed online at www.decisivemoments.org. Call 9299624 or 0919-2204183.



For every Casio keyboard you get from December 1, 2003 to January 30, 2004, a portion of your purchase will go to the "MAKE A CHILD HAPPY: SHARE A TOY" Program of SM Foundation Inc. making this Christmas even brighter not just to your kids but to other children as well.

Share the joy of gift giving this Christmas

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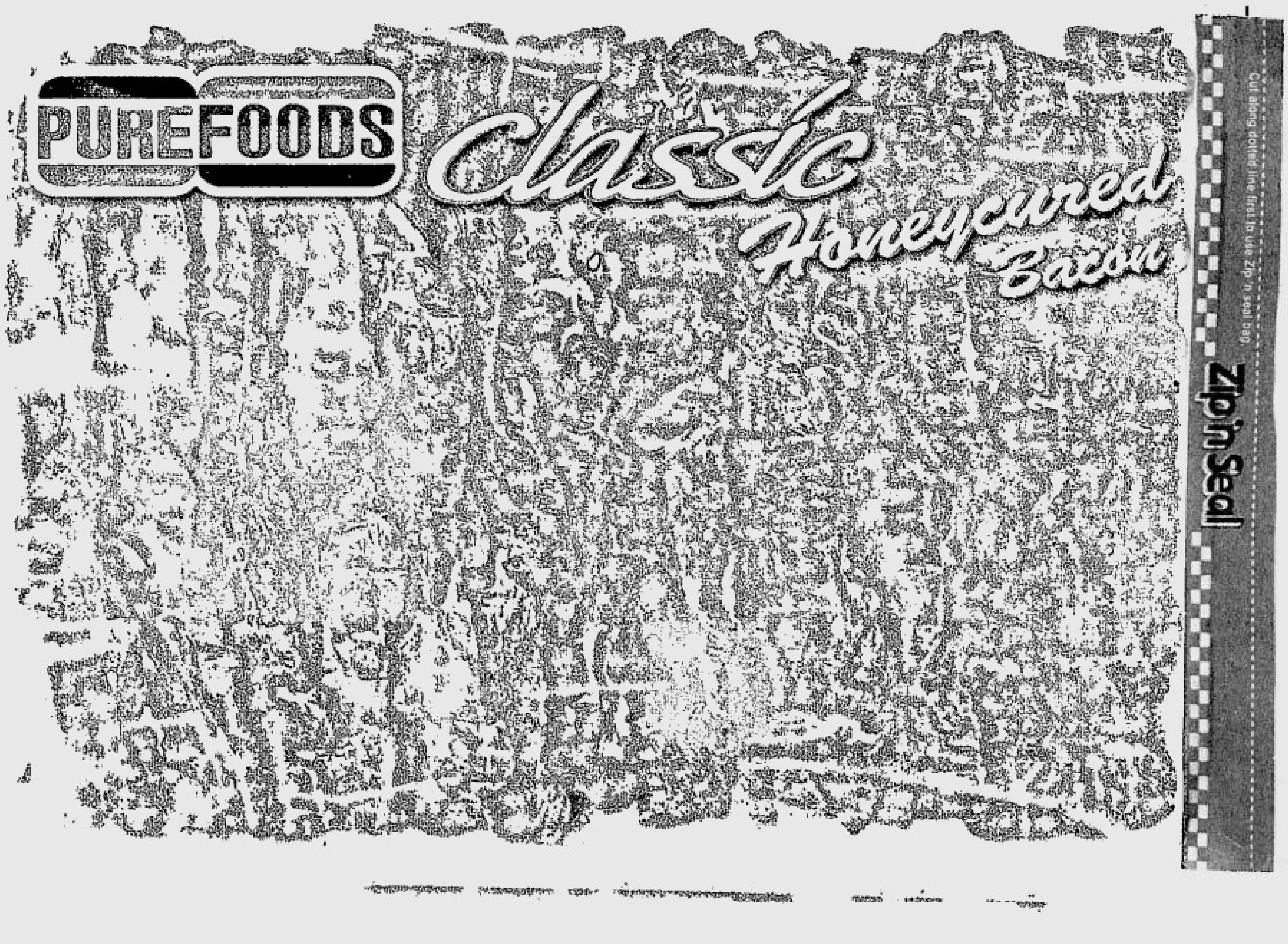
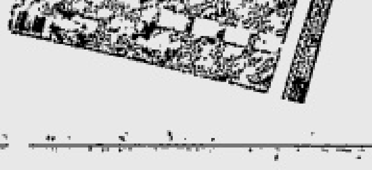


ONLY PUREFOODS HONEYCURED BACON COMES IN THE RESEALABLE ZIP 'N' SEAL PACK.
1. Cut along the dotted line the first time you use it. 2. Reseal your Zip 'n' Seal bag to keep your bacon fresh and delicious.



### HUANG DEBUT

**Bianca Sy Huang**, daughter of **Billy** and **Bella Huang**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a fairytale theme party tomorrow at Fernwood Gardens, QC.

The debutante is a management student of the University of Asia and the Pacific. She will wear a pink and lavender princess-cut gown in shantung material embellished with monochromatic pink lavender caviar beads. The gown, with a draping neckline of chiffon and dangling beads on the shoulder, is designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo.**

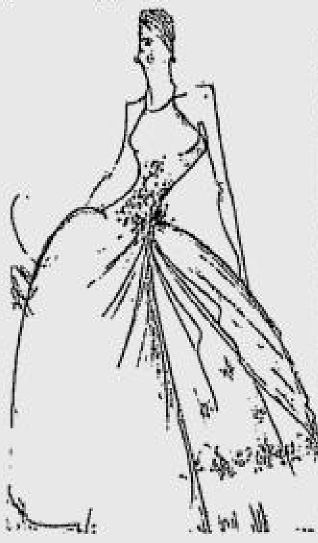
### PERALTA DEBUT

**Kristin Peralta**, daughter of **Augustus** and **Conchita Peralta.** celebrated her 18th birthday on Dec. 9 with a formal dance and dinner party in Pansol, Calamba, Laguna. She is a hotel and restaurant management student at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

The debutante wore a baby-pink satin gown with an accordion bodice encrusted with rhinestones and seed pearls, designed by **Valerie.**

### GUEMO DEBUT

**Joyce Ann Guemo Dizon**, daughter of **Rodante** and **Levy Guemo**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Dec. 12 at the Park Place Village Club House in Imus, Cavite. She wore a **Paul Rex Mateo** creation.



Lasang natunaw na ice cream!!!
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-James Edward Rivera
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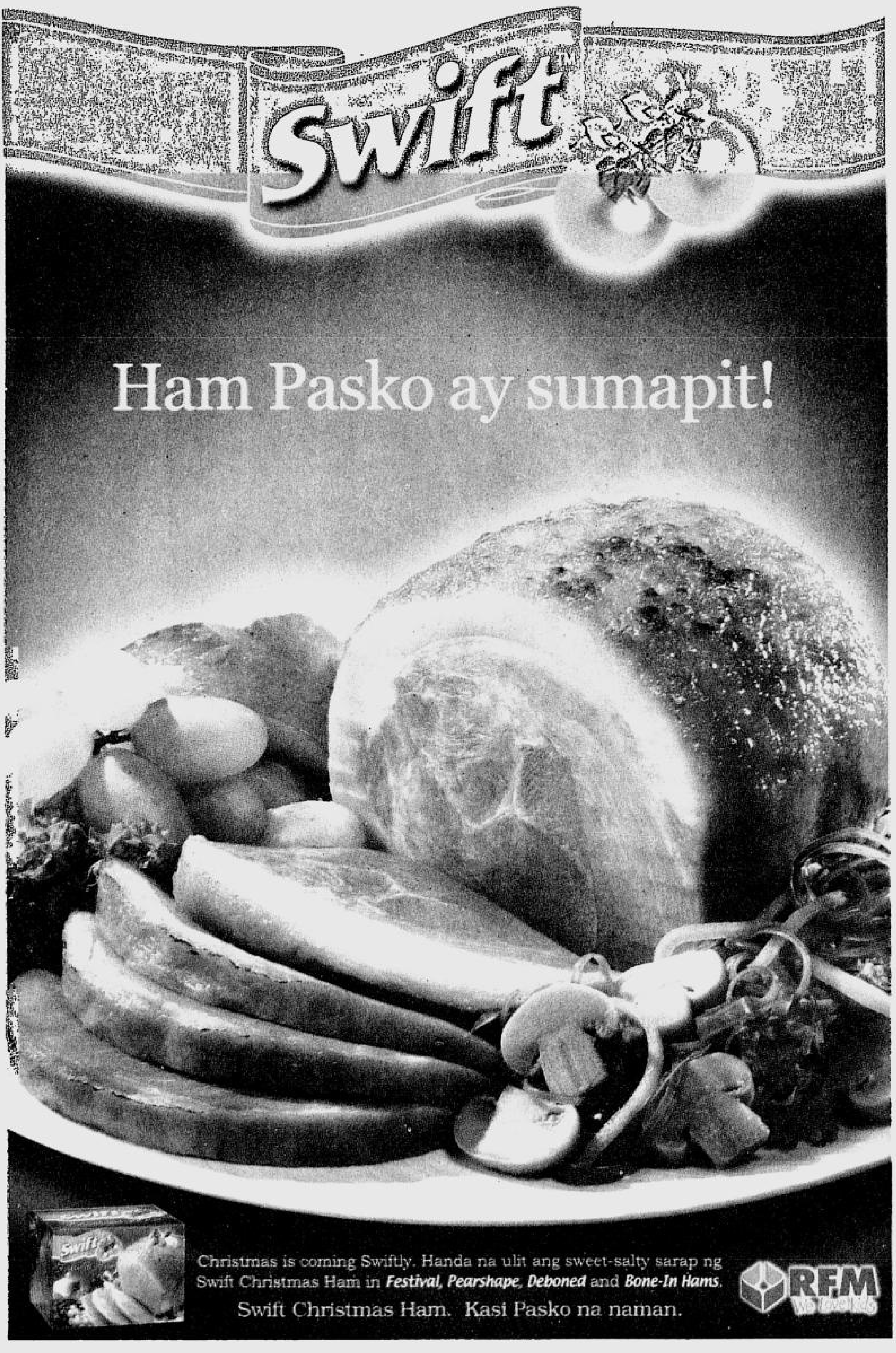

Christmas is coming Swiftly. Handa na ulit ang sweet-salty sarap ng Swift Christmas Ham in *Festival, Pearshape, Deboned* and *Bone-In Hams*.

Swift Christmas Ham. Kasi Pasko na naman.

# Cofradia to mark 150 years of Marian dogma

**PURELY PERSONAL**

*Josephine Darang*

IN 2004, the Catholic Church will celebrate, with solemn events around the world, the 150th anniversary of the declaration of the dogma of Mary as being born without original sin.

Locally, the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion will mark the event with a grand procession. Imelda Cojuangco, founding chair, will be the *hermana mayor*.

Pope Pius IX declared on Dec. 8, 1854 that the Virgin was born without original sin, and was thus called Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

In the grand Marian procession last Sunday for this year's Immaculate Conception festivities, devotees showed their love for the Blessed Virgin Mary by joining in the procession with lighted candles to honor the various titles by which she is called.

From as far as Guimaras Island came Nuestra Señora del Espiritu Santo de Guimaras, brought to Manila by Aquilino "Quiling" Secusana and accompanied in the procession by former representative Emily Relucio Lopez.

For the first time in six years, Nuestra Señora de la Merced, patroness of Candaba, Pampanga, was also there, while the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal from Posadas Village and Our Lady of Caysasay from Taal came for the first time.

Nuestra Señora de la Verdad, which is venerated at the Presentation of Jesus Parish in BF Homes, Parañaque, also came, accompanied by Boy Ponce. Our Lady's *carroza* was festooned with flowers donated by Sen. Robert Barbers.

## Patroness of Guimaras

The image of Nuestra Señora del Espiritu Santo, patroness of Guimaras Island, has an interesting story to tell.

Aquilino M. Secusana, a simple man and a native of Jordan, Guimaras Province, had a disturbing dream. He saw a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother mounted on a *carroza* unlike any he had seen before.

Secusana, a dedicated worker of the church, is the founder and organizer of the island's annual Holy Week festival called Ang Pagtaltal sa Guimaras, a reenactment by the townspeople of Our Lord's suffering in Calvary.

Tito Quiling, as everyone calls him, has made the Ang Pagtaltal rites his life's work. The festival is now known far and wide and has given identity to the newly created province in Western Visayas.

Quiling told his parish priest, Msgr. Sergio U. Jamoyot, about his dream, and a plan was formed to carve such an image.

During one of his morning strolls at Rizal Park, Quiling got to talk to a man in his early 20s, a former drug dependent from Silay City, Negros Occidental who turned out to be an artist. His name was J.J. Ciocon, and he put down on paper what Quiling tried to describe from his dream.

The image held a dove on her right hand, a symbol of peace and freedom. The artist inscribed on the drawing "Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Pray the Rosary."

Then, in one of Quiling's visits to Antipolo, a devotee of Our Lady offered to have the image sculpted, though she preferred to remain anonymous, and so did the sculptor.

The image, once completed, was blessed by Bishop Protacio Gungon of the Archdiocese of Antipolo, Eastern Rizal, on Aug. 14, 1988 and shipped to Guimaras in time for the "Kaadlawan sang Guimaras" on Aug. 19, 1988. She was then crowned by Gov. Catalino Nava before a concelebrated Mass officiated by 10 priests of the province.

Fr. Noe Lozada, parish priest of San Miguel, Jordan, has proclaimed the statue of Our Lady as the patroness of the island province.

## Our Lady of Mercy

I first heard of Our Lady of Mercy when Imelda Albano Reyes, a former *hermana mayor* of the Cofradia, told me about her and showed me her image.

The second time I saw a life-size image was when Alvin Balatbat of Candaba, Pampanga, showed me his town patroness, right there in Fort Santiago last Sunday where the image was being prepared for the procession.

There are only three Our Lady of Mercy images in the Philippines: one in Novaliches; another in Taysan, Batangas; and one more in Candaba.

The history of Nuestra Señora de la Merced or Our Lady of Mercy dates back to the 13th century when the Virgin appeared in separate visions on the same night, Aug. 2, 1218, to St. Peter Nolasco, St. Raymond of Peñafort and James, King of Aragon and Catalonia in Spain.

Our Lady of Mercy is a Marian title of the 13th century commemorating the foundation of the Mercedarian religious order by St. Peter Nolasco in 1218. St. Peter Nolasco founded the order in response to a request made by the Blessed Virgin during her apparition.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave a scapular and requested the establishment of an order dedicated to rescuing the many Christian captives held by the Moslems.

This Order of Our Lady of Mercy, also known as Our Lady of Ransom, approved as a military order in 1235 by Pope Gregory IX, was able to liberate thousands of Christian prisoners, and later became dedicated to teaching and social work.

Today, the main thrust of the Mercedarians' apostolate is reconciliation by encouraging the people to receive the Sacrament of Penance and visiting the sick. The Scapular of Our Lady of Mercy, which bears the "A" and "M" (Ave Maria) and the shield of Aragon on the opposite side, is used today for the ransoming and redeeming of souls from the devil and sickness.

The miraculous image of Our Lady of Mercy enthroned in the parish church of Bahay Pare, Candaba, Pampanga, was brought from Spain by Fr. Aniceto de la Merced in the 18th century.

Every first Saturday of the month, people gather to pray and express their devotion to the Lady. The blessing of the scapular to be given to all the devotees, especially the sick, is performed. Those who want scapulars and estampitas may text Alvin Balatbat at 0916-4453842.

The feast day of the Nuestra Señora de la Merced is celebrated on the 24th of September as promulgated by Pope Gregory IX.

## Goodbye, Fr. Abet Tanghal

Our condolences to the family of Fr. Abet Tanghal who was killed in a robbery in his own house on Dec. 2. Parishioners of Ermita Church, where he was a guest priest, are brokenhearted. I am grieving because he was good friend who gave inspiring homilies.

Father Abet was buried at La Loma Cemetery on Dec. 9 after a funeral Mass in the morning at St. Joseph Church in Gagalangin, Tondo, where his family is from. He used to be an altar boy in this church. Father Abet took up civil engineering at Mapua before entering the priesthood. Let's pray for the repose of his soul.

# Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354
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or e-mail us at
pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

## BABAO-BERSOLA NUPTIALS

# The way they look tonight

**LONGEST KISS.** Julius and Tintin look forward to a life together, forever.

**Text and photos by Tim Yap**
**Additional photos by Nelson Villarica**

"WEDDING of the year." This was how Benedicto R. Cabrera, better known to us as Bencab, described the nuptials of television's well-loved couple, Julius Babao and Tintin Bersola.

At the San Antonio de Padua Sub-Parish Church in Barangay Inarawan, Antipolo, the couple exchanged the longest and most heartfelt bridal kiss in show biz history.

Flashback to year 2000. Julius and Tintin were in Lisbon, Portugal, and decided to drop a few coins inside the church. The third coin, they told each other, meant three years of preparation before they would finally tie the knot. The coin eventually landed on St. Anthony de Padua's foot—thus the choice of church for the couple.

Inside the parish church, Gary V sang "Lead me Lord," and "I Will Be Here," before the couple finally exchanged wedding vows they had written themselves.

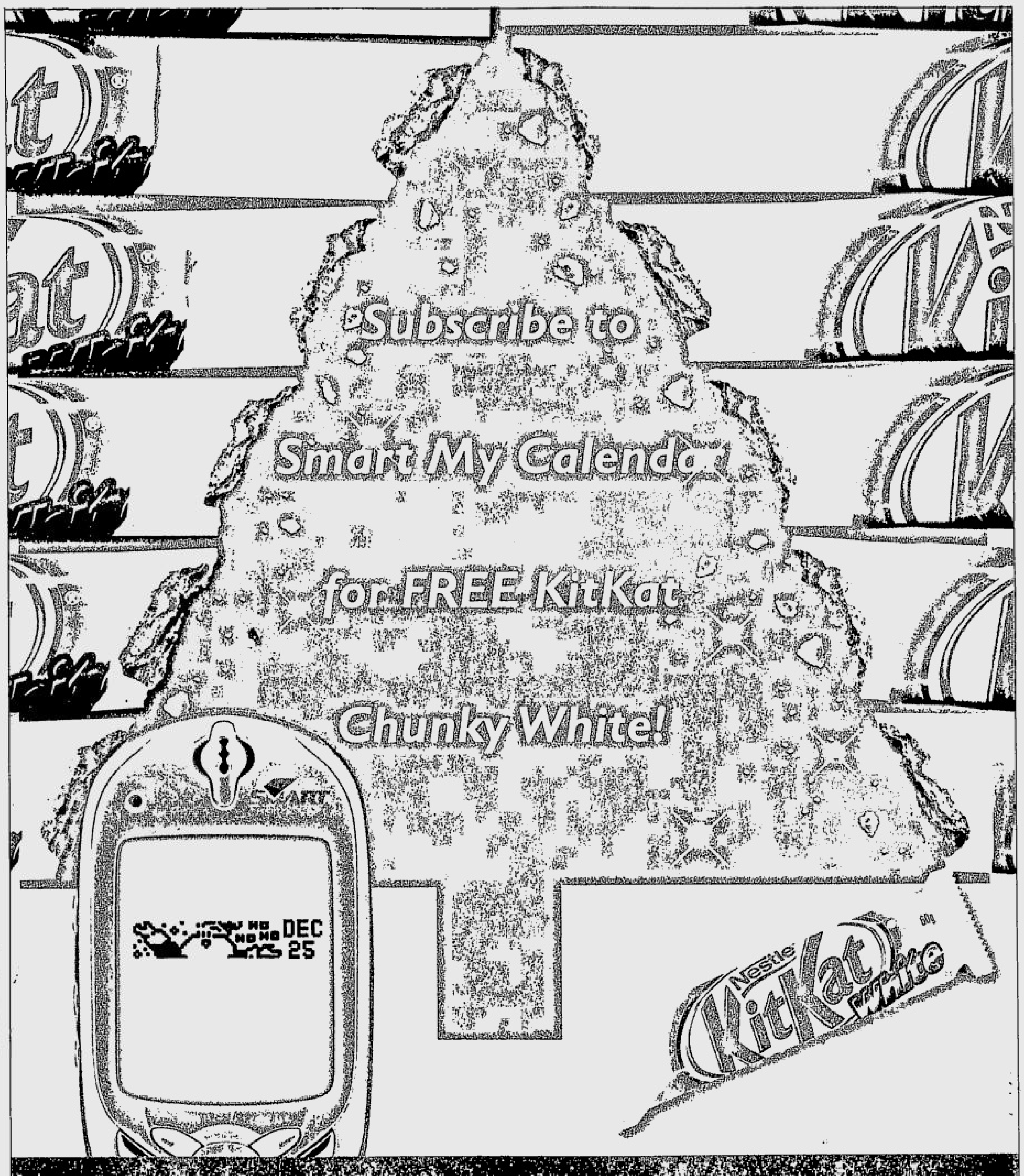
"There is nothing for me but to love you," a teary eyed Tintin quoted from her and Julius' favorite love song. She looked luminous in an off-shoulder gown made of lace and silk by Renee Salud.

TITLE/12

**MUSICAL PROBE.** Cheche Lazaro and Jose Mari Chan

**POLITICAL AFFAIRS.** Sen. Loren Legarda and Dong Puno

**MEGA AND HER MAN.** Sharon Cuneta with Sen. Kiko Pangilinan



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Per DTI-NCR Permit no.3279, Series of 2003

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**THE BEAUTIFUL** couple's principal sponsors

**PARENTAL CONSENT.** Julius and Tintin with their re

# The way they look tonight

**MEDIA MAVENS.** Karen Davila and Sari Yap

**POWER LADY.** Charo Santos-Concio

**DOUBLE O.** Orestes Ojeda, representing *ninong* Ang Kiukok

**SPARKLING 24K.** Korina Sanchez

**NEWS AND HIS MUSE.** Patrick Paez with wife Daphne Oseña-Paez

***KAPAMILYA*** Gabby Lopez

**POLITICAL ART.** *Ninong* Ben Cabrera and Rep. Miguel Zubiri

**HOSTS WITH THE MOST.** Bobby Yan and Edu Manzano

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EYE.** Neil Lucente and bridesmaid Claudine Sia-Lucente

**REPORTING WITH LOVE.** The groom and his bride, in Renee Salud bridal finery

From page 11

"I almost cried when you were delivering your speech," said ABS-CBN top honcho Gabby Lopez to the bride during the reception at nearby Silangan Gardens, an artist's hub in the heart of Antipolo. The roads leading toward the private subdivision were romantically lit with candles and lanterns by Balay Kandila.

Media movers and shakers hobnobbed with the artist friends of the couple, filling the reception venue to celebrate Julius and Tintin's union.

"Art had a friend in Julius. Now Art has two friends in Julius and Tintin with their marriage," said *ninong* Malang.

*With each word your tenderness grows*
*Tearing my fears apart*
*And that laugh that wrinkles your nose*
*Touches my foolish heart...*

The weather seemed to cooperate with the couple, as it blew a gentle breeze over the guests. One by one, musical artists like Michelle Ayalde, Nikki Valdez, Dessa, Rannie Raymundo, JV Villar, Jamie Rivera, Jenine Desiderio and Lani Misalucha serenaded the newlyweds with beautiful melodies.

The Wedding Symphony provided the perfect musical backdrop, while hosts Edu Manzano and Bobby Yan kept the atmosphere lively and the banter crisp. Red roses shaped into pine trees atop the tables enhanced the festive air of the occasion.

Later, while Julius and Tintin were cutting the cake, fireworks lit up the evening sky, like brushstrokes in a canvas of black—a most befitting scene to mark the new chapter in their lives as husband and wife.

*Lovely, don't you ever change*
*Keep that breathless charm*
*There is nothing for me*
*But to love you...*

The party's peak came when Eddie Mercado surprised the newlyweds and sang the couple's love song by the pool—"The Way You Look Tonight."

With cameras flashing, Tintin gently rested her head on Julius' shoulder, as they hugged and danced the whole night.

*Ninong* Bencab once again put it best when he said, "Love and art—just like brushstrokes on a canvas, love can take different twists and turns, color and shape. But like a work of art, your love for one another will stand the rigors of time and will remain a masterpiece forever."

*... And the way you look tonight... Just the way you look tonight...*

**WITH A SONG IN MY HEART.** The couple with *ninan* Baby Arenas

At the San Antonio de Padua Sub-Parish Church in Barangay Inarawan, Antipolo, television's well-loved couple exchanged the longest and most heartfelt bridal kiss in show biz history

**A LOVE FOR ART.** ABS-CBN'S Mario Dumaual, Rep. Gilbert Remulla with gorgeous wife Georgia and artis Gabby Barredo

**PUBLIC LOVE AFFAIR.** Sen. Noli de Castro and lovel wife Arlene de Castro

**TALK ABOUT TV.** Jannette McBride and Ryan Agoncillo

**SING, NIGHTINGALE.** Misalucha

**UNIVERSAL LOVE.** Bella Tan and Mary Ann Chan

**PICTURE PERFECT.** Dr. Vicki Belo and Leah Salterio

**GOOD** morning Philippines, says Cheryl Cosim.

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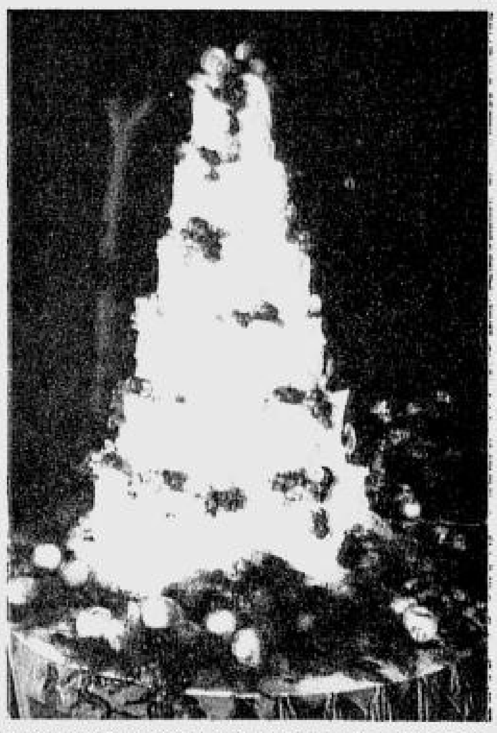
spective parents

**LORD, OUR RINGS.** Julius and Tintin present the everlasting proof of their love

**SWEET MOMENTS.** The newlyweds cutting it really close



**SIX TIERS, ONE LOVE.** Penk Ching of Pastry Bin's inspired creation

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The Perfect Time for the Perfect Mix!

It's Christmas time again! Parols. Belens. Simbang gabi. Gift-giving. Food. Lots of food!

In the Philippines, the revelry of Christmas just won't be complete without tables overflowing with our favorite dishes: food for Noche Buena, food for family reunions, food for Christmas parties, food lovingly prepared by Mom... And whenever our Moms cook up a lot of food, Eight O'Clock, the Filipino's favorite powdered juice drink, will always be there.

This Christmas, Eight O'Clock has a special treat for Moms-Drink Mix Partners! Handy, collectible pitchers come free with Eight O'Clock Tipid Litro Packs, to make serving Eight O'Clock as much fun as drinking it.

So, relish the joys of the Holiday Season with the usual abundance of food and complement them with the many flavors of Mom's love in every delicious glass of Eight O'Clock!

DRINK MIX PARTNERS

- *10 Eight O'Clock Tipid Litro Packs = 1 FREE regular Pitcher*
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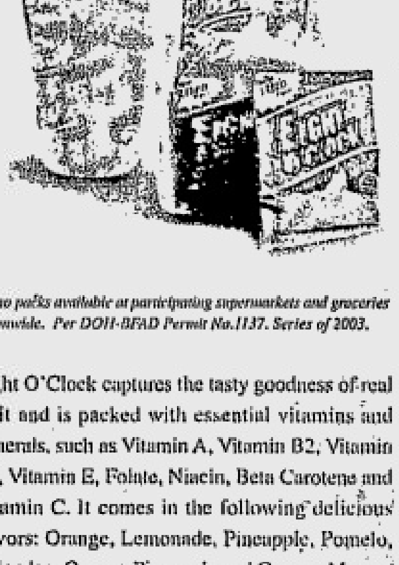

*Promo packs available at participating supermarkets and groceries nationwide. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.1137. Series of 2003.*

Eight O'Clock captures the tasty goodness of real fruit and is packed with essential vitamins and minerals, such as Vitamin A, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B6, Vitamin E, Folate, Niacin, Beta Carotene and Vitamin C. It comes in the following delicious flavors: Orange, Lemonade, Pineapple, Pomelo, Dalandan, Orange-Pineapple and Orange-Mango!

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3. Deadline for submission of entries will be on December 26, 2003 until 9:00pm only. The Grand Draw will be on December 30, 2003.

SEE POSTERS FOR MORE DETAILS

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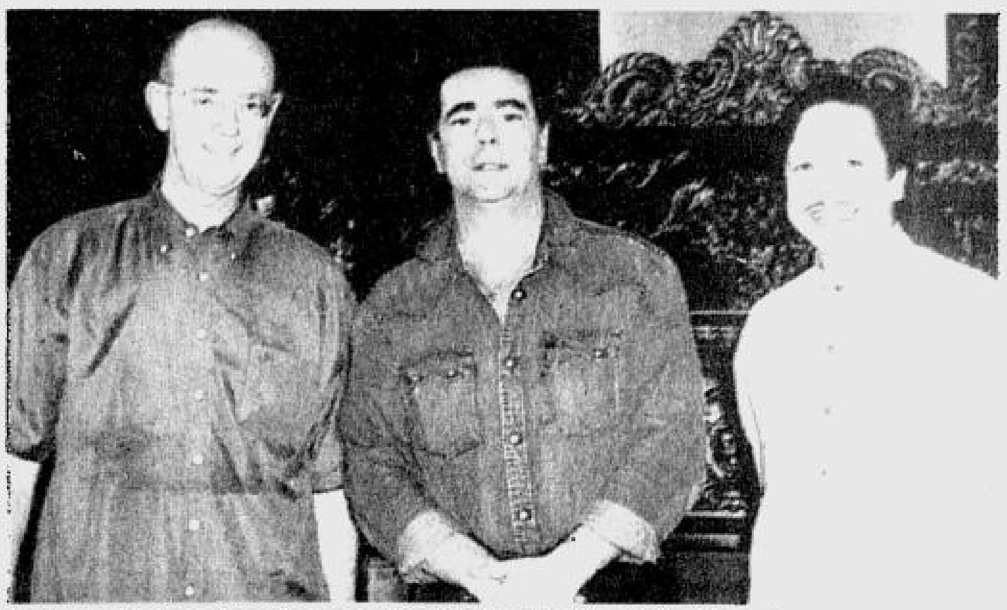
FR. Arnie Boehme, Maestro Ruggero Barbieri and baritone Ding Mercado

# PPO brings its music to QC parish

OUR Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine parishioners will be treated to the strains of beautiful classical music from the country's premiere orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), on Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

The 70-member orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri, will play much-loved compositions from the masters and some traditional Christmas tunes. Special guest artist is baritone Ding Mercado, a parishioner.

This special musical performance is the prelude to the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mt. Carmel Shrine in 2004. Fr. Arnie Boehme, OCD, superior, Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, says that this concert "will provide Mt. Carmel parishioners a great opportunity to listen to and enjoy classical music this Holiday Season."

The PPO previously performed at Mt. Carmel church before a very enthusiastic crowd on July 10, 2002 during the "Alay Kay Maria: Alay Kay Nanay" fiesta celebration.

The presentation is being presented with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and with the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It is part of the PPO's outreach program to help develop music appreciation among Filipinos throughout the country.

# *Mormons hold Family History Fair*

THE CHURCH of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints celebrated National Family Week recently by holding the Family History Fair, in which members and guests got to conduct family history research or genealogy at the Enterprise Center Tower 2 in Makati.

Visitors were taught the basics of genealogy to start their own family history. They were taught research on microfilmed records, the use of pedigree worksheets and doing on-line research.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been maintaining family history and genealogical records since 1894. Today, the Church owns the world's largest collection of genealogical records, including the names of more than two billion deceased people. In the Philippines, over 90 percent of available vital records have been microfilmed.

The Church is offering the services of its Family History Service Center for free. Visitors can conduct research on their ancestors by using microfilmed Philippine records dating to as far back as the 1500's.

Visit the Family History Service Center at the corner of Temple Drive and White Plains Avenue, Greenmeadows Subdivision in Quezon City. Call 635-9150/9134. Visit www.FamilySearch.org.

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# Jelly accessory, rigodon-ballet and calendar boys

MUST-HAVE bags—Hot Jelly Kelly bags available at Firma, Greenbelt 3

## T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

*Anton San Diego*

MUST-HAVE fashion accessory—**Jelly Kelly bags.** One of the hottest bags of the year, it is inspired by the Hermes Kelly bag and made of opaque rubber material that's designed for durability. The problem is it is so popular many companies are making it. The original handbag, though, has a genuine authenticity card. Jelly Kelly bag is sold at Firma Greenbelt. Go now while stocks last; it's on every fashionista's lust list. Call 7574009.

**Must-have scent—L'occitane's Feuilles d'Oranger.** This is my favorite cologne of the moment and I can't seem to get enough of it. The scent is flowery, sensual and elegant, evoking the fragrance of sweet and warm oranges. The essential oil used is from a delicate orange flower called the neroli. It is named after a French aristocrat known for her style and class during her time. The scent is both for men and women, available at Rustan's essensses.

**Rigodon in "Nutcracker."** Last Saturday was my debut as a dancer in Ballet Philippines' production of **Edna Vida's** "Nutcracker" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. We did not have to don tights or tutus, thank God! We were in Act 1, dancing the rigodon.

**Sofia Elizalde** asked 12 men and women to participate: **Alejandro de la Roca** and **Gema Garcia**; **Edoard** and **Sevrine Miaihle**; **Ferną** and **Junie Pena**, **Andre Roslovtsev** and **Marilen Elizalde**; **Tim Yap** and **Mia Borromeo**; **Nes Jardin** and **Luli Arroyo**; **Juan Miguel Ongsiako** and **Patsy Halfter**; **Ed** and **Margarita Delgado**; **Jojo Mamangun** and **Claudia Tambunting**; **Patxi** and **Sofia Elizalde**;**Joel Uichico** and **Bea Zobel Jr.**; and **Kit Zobel** and I.

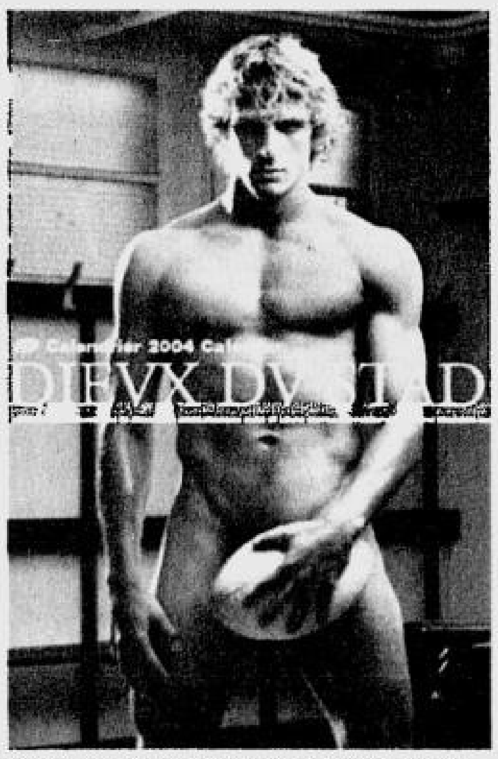
I have known Kit since Grade 1; she remains one of my closest friends. In grade school, when the swing was "in," we would practice the latest moves from "Penthouse Live" (or was it "Discorama"?) in between class breaks. Funny that 25-plus years later we were partners again.

We had six rehearsals but on opening night, we had the jitters (we weren't supposed to dance only, we also had to emote). When it was all over we all wished (or maybe it was just me) we could do it again. It was one night I will treasure for long time. The ballet is still running and is an event for the whole family. Catch it! Call 5510221.

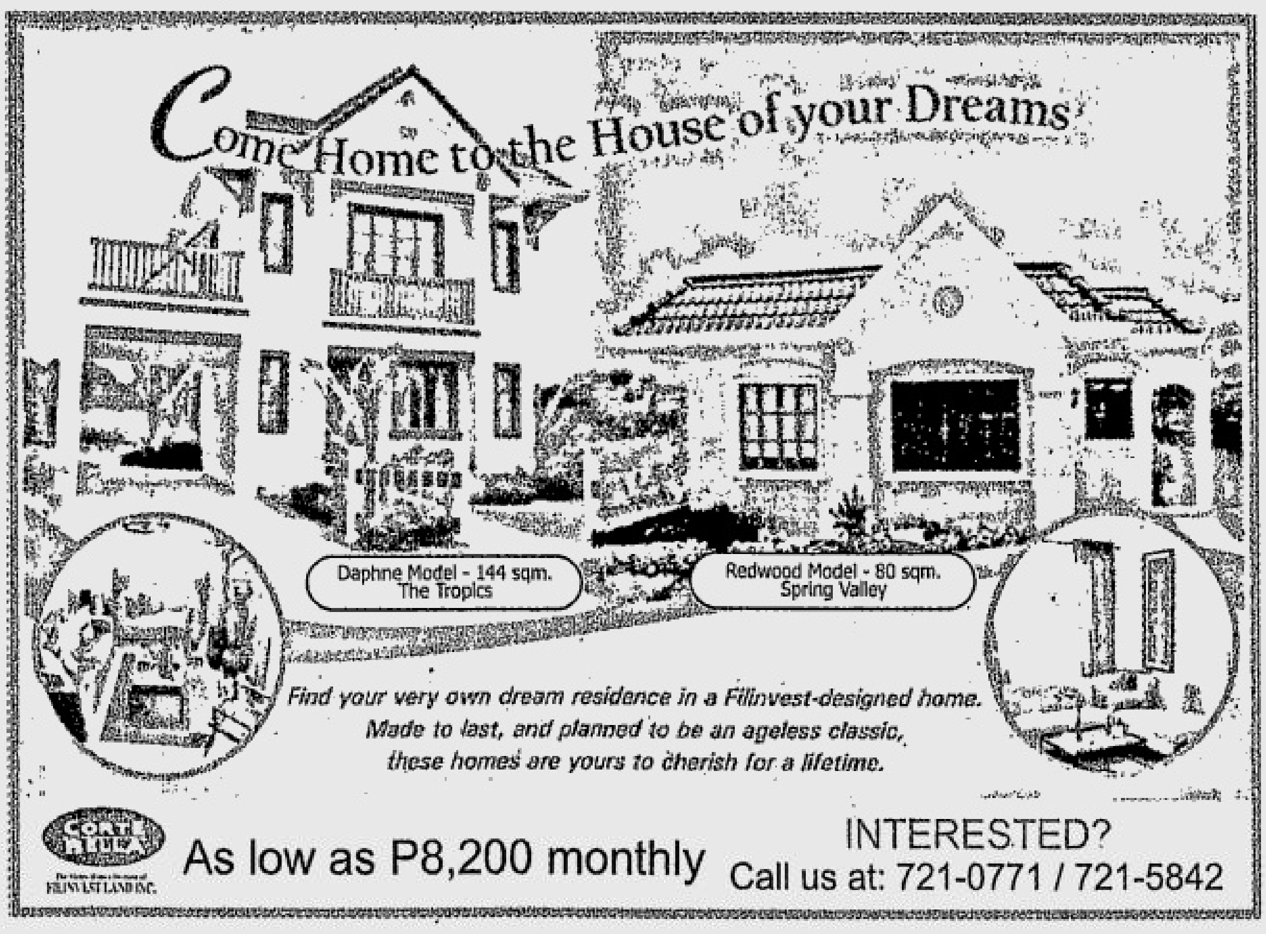
**Calendar of the year.** It's the hottest calendar of the year (of course, it depends which sex turns you on). The French rugby team, who have made it a tradition to come out in the buff as calendar boys (to the delight of their fans), have just released their 2004 calendar and it's hotter than hot. One can also buy the DVD version where you can see things flopping around and I assure you it's not the football. Check out their website at www.stade.fr.

**Must-have Christmas album—Michael Bublé's "Let it Snow!"** It's been one hectic month, but there are two CDs getting me through the holidays. First is my fave singer **Josh Groban's** "Closer." He has the most beautiful rendition of "She's Out of My life" (originally sung by **M. Jackson**). The other is Michael Bublé's Christmas album, "Let it Snow." Although it only contains five songs ("Let it Snow," "The Christmas Song," "Grown-up Christmas List," "I'll be Home for

JELLY/J3



HOT, hot calendar of the year. French rugby team au naturel



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**WHITE** beaded tank top (P795), sheer pink floral-print [illegible] (P1,350) and white cropped pants (P895)

# Woven Christmas style

**RUCHED** lavender satin top (P750) and black silk cropped pants (P895)

## Tweeds indulges in merry details for the merry season

**Text by Cheche V. Moral**
**Photos by Chito Vecina**

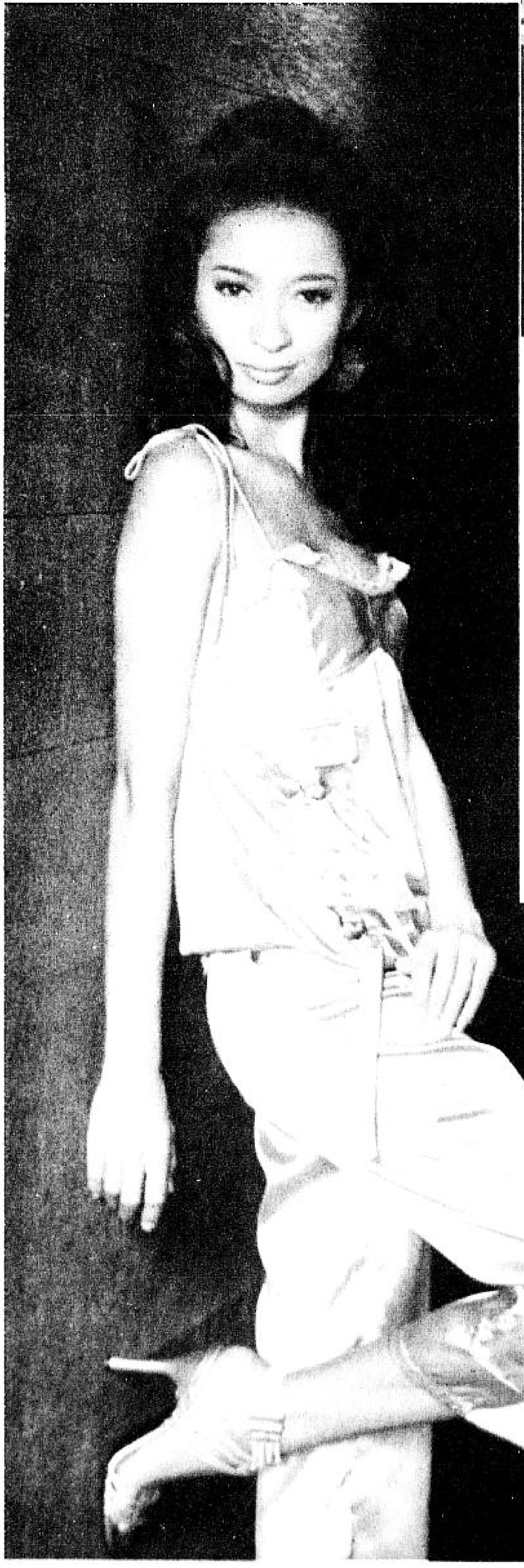
BRIGHT lights, big city. And with them come shiny satin tops and cropped pants for the thoroughly modern woman this bright and big season.

Tweeds takes its urban glam philosophy to the hilt this holiday with stretch and metallic fabrics endowed with the occasional hardware, softened by the customary lace or sparkling with shimmering beads.

Pockets are aplenty, and so are ruching, ruching and ruching. Pants are sleek, tops are scant. Skirts deftly enfold the female form. Sleeves are short to nil; necklines are cut dangerously low.

The spirit of Tweeds is mutedly sensual and utterly sophisticated. The Tweeds woman can go from delicate flats to sky-high heels. For her, the holidays have no borders. They're a year-round affair.

*E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph*



**SILVER** silk top (P695) and matching silver cropped pants (P895)

**BLACK** halter (P795) and pink silk cropped pants (P895)

STYLIST: JENNI EPPERSON
MODEL: NICOLETTE BELL
MAKEUP: LEO POSADAS OF ESSENSUALS TONI & GUY
HAIR: JONATHAN JOANINO OF ESSENSUALS TONI & GUY
FASHION ASSISTANT: KATRINA CRUZ
LOCATION: PASEO UNO, MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
SPECIAL THANKS TO CHARISSE CHUIDIAN AND MARICEL CRISOSTOMO
TWEEDS IS LOCATED AT GLORIETTA 1; SM MEGAMALL B; ROBINSONS GALLERIA; ROBINSONS ERMITA;
ALABANG TOWN CENTER; AYALA CENTER CEBU

**THE "NUTCRACKER"** Rigodon dancers. Alejandro de la Roca and Gema Garcia, Edoard and Sevrine Miaihle, Ferna and Junie Pena, Andre Roslovtsev and Marilen Elizalde, Tim Yap and Mia Borromeo, Nes Jardin and Luli Arroyo, Juan Miguel Ongsiako and Patsy Halfter, Ed and Margarita Delgado, Claudia Tambunting , Patxi and Sofia Elizalde, Anton San Diego and Kit Zobel, Joel Uichico and Bea Zobel Jr.

# Jelly accessory, rigodon-ballet and calendar boys

From page J1

Christmas" and "White Christmas"), it's the only Christmas CD worth buying. When I was in Music One the other day I bought the last three CD copies. I'm sure they have restocked by now, but get it before supplies run out.

**Extreme makeover.** My favorite dermatologist and good friend Dr. **Vicky Belo** was asked by TV news show "The Insider" to recommend cosmetic surgery tips to the presidential aspirants. Here are her answers (paraphrased): **Raul Roco**—He needs liposuction, for obvious reasons. If someone is fat it shows signs of being undisciplined. **Ping Lacson**—Although I think he's handsome, he needs botox because he is always frowning. **GMA**—I would take out her mole; it's too big. But if it's her good luck charm then she should keep it. **FPJ**—He is always wearing shades. I would do an eye-lift and take out his double chin, which is a sign of weakness. **Noli de Castro**—Obagi. So that his skin would be smooth. But I may just leave it if he is going for that **Charles Bronson** look. And for **Franklin Drilon** who may or may not be running—A nose lift. If he is on TV, his nose takes over the screen.

**Inspiring book.** If there is one book that everyone should read before the year is over, it should be, "The Purpose-Driven Life."

I have learned simple truths such as "Life is not about me!" (even when sometimes I wish it was) and seeing the bigger picture. The book has no new teaching, but it reminds us of the old teachings and instills in us a sense of hope and change.

Get the book. It will really make a difference!

*E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com*

**MY FAVORITE PARTNER.** Kit Zobel and I during the "Nutcracker" gala

**MUST-HAVE** cologne—L'Occitane's Feuilles d'Oranger

CHRISTMAS GIFT?
Dapat may patunay ng samahang matibay.

Hanapin lang ang URATEX seal of quality.

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the original!
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DATE MANUFACTURED: NOV 08 2003
DATE OF PURCHASE
QUALITY PASSED
is guaranteed for a period of 5 full years from the date of purchase against inherent manufacturing defects under normal usage, thus assuming you of high quality foam.
Polyurethane foam has a natural characteristics of undergoing slight shape distortion, minor softening and discoloration. Thus, the guarantee is limited to sagging (loss of thickness by more than 25%) and crumbling of foam slab.

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A Dish So Simple Is Made Special... Everyday!

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Season'n Fry
Porkchop Coating Mix
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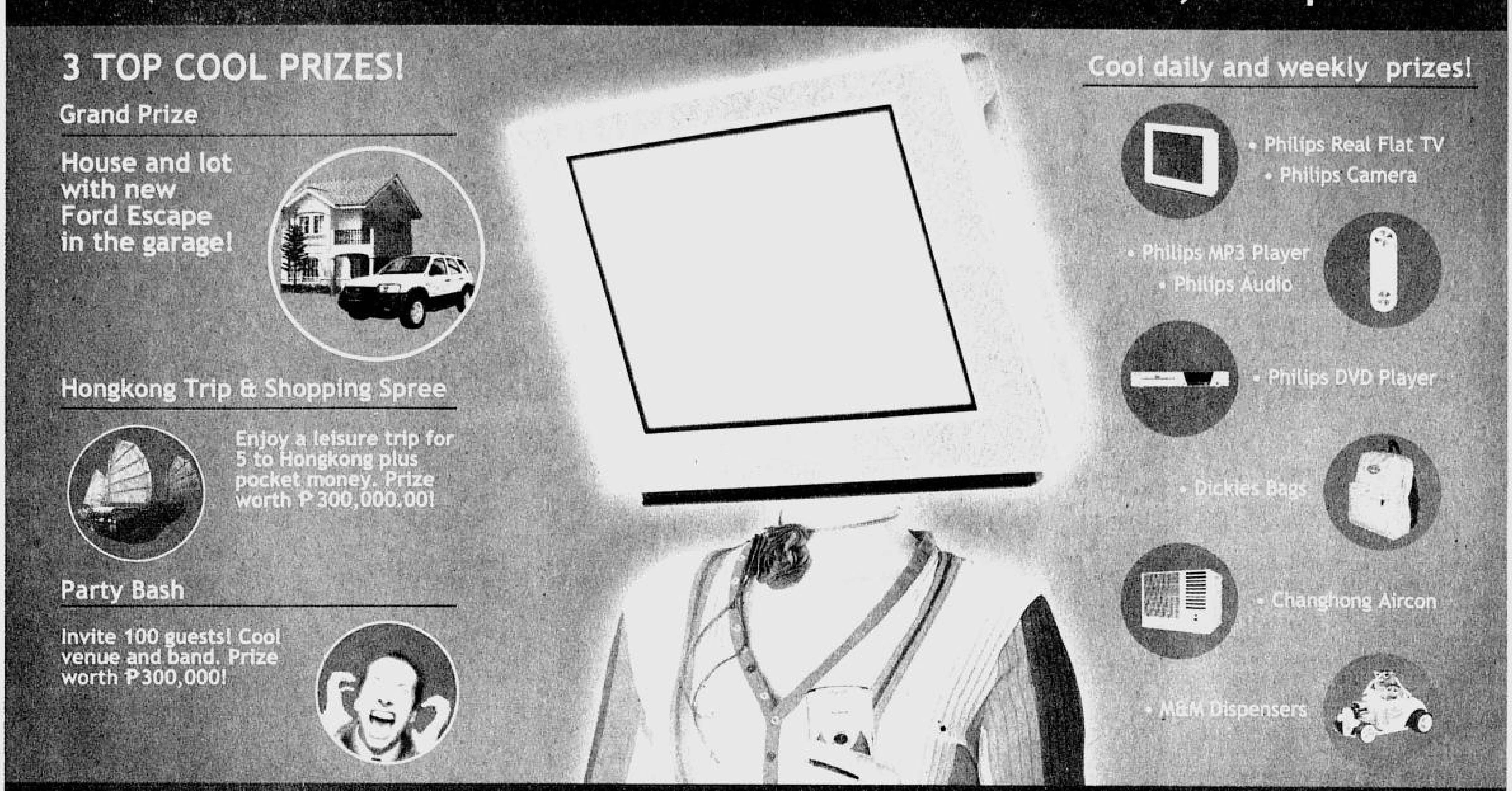

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**Party Bash**

Invite 100 guests! Cool venue and band. Prize worth ₱300,000!

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- Changhong Aircon
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Send to 288.

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A confirmation message will be sent to you.

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| ₱5.00 services<br>2 entries/delivery | ₱10.00 services<br>4 entries/delivery | ₱15.00 services<br>6 entries/delivery |
|---|---|---|
| Zed bread<br>Fortune Cookie<br>CALGUY<br>CALGAL<br>Comics<br>Pop Star game<br>Beerkada<br>Say Grace<br>MMX Horoscope | MMX POP<br>Textpressions<br><br>**₱30.00 service<br>12 entries/delivery**<br><br>Java Games | POW TONE<br>POW LOGO<br>POW PIC<br>POW OPM<br>POW ROCK<br>POW POLY<br>POW MMS |

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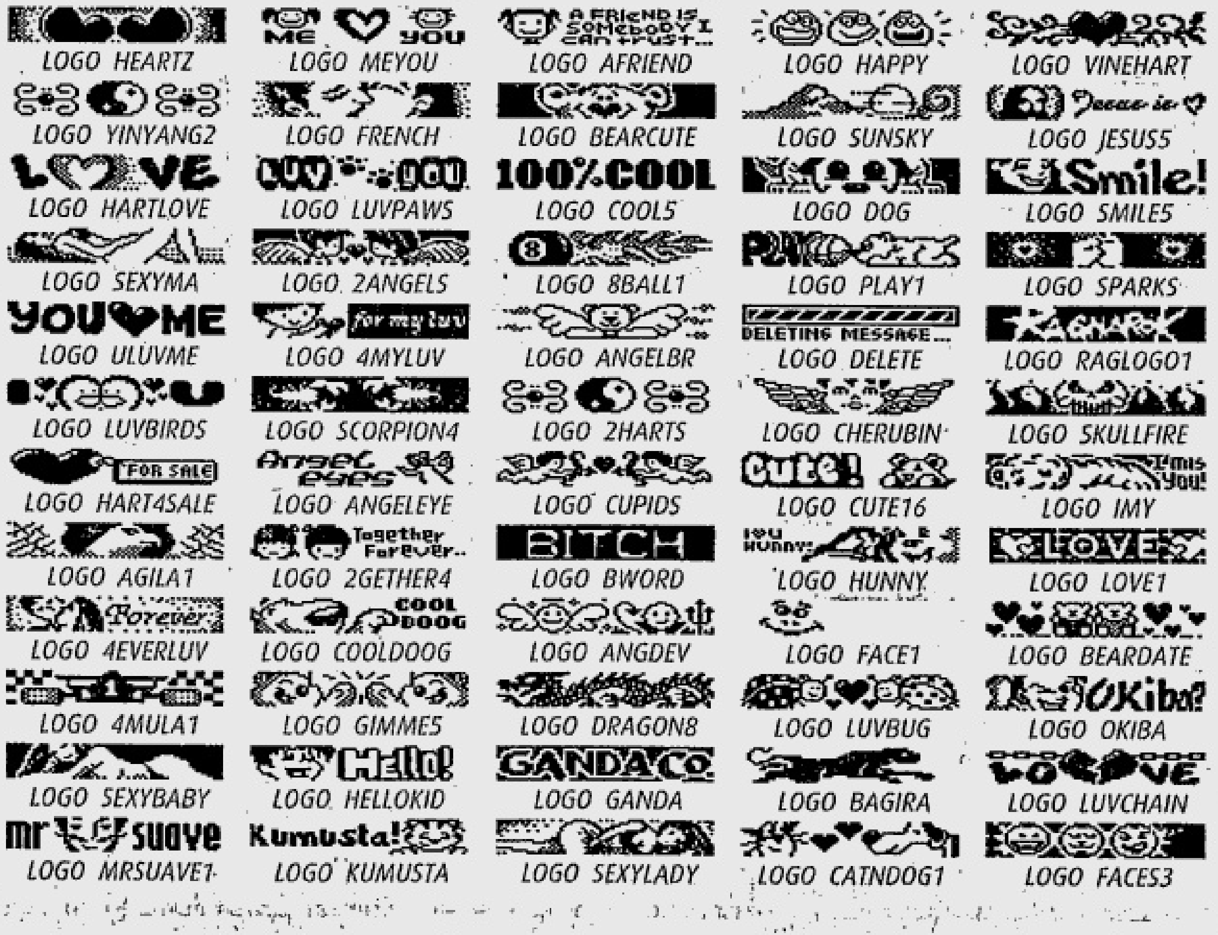
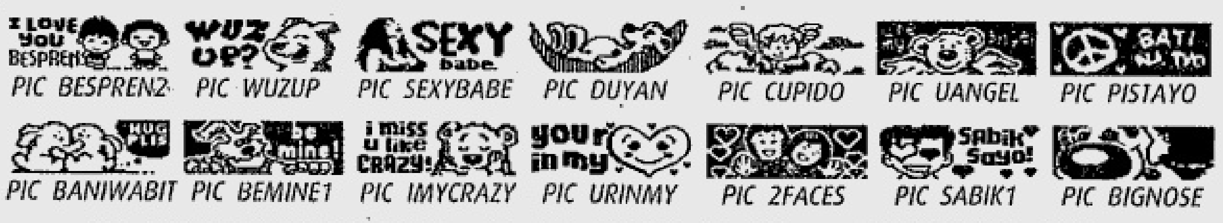
## Operator Logos



LOGO HEARTZ · LOGO MEYOU · LOGO AFRIEND · LOGO HAPPY · LOGO VINEHART
LOGO YINYANG2 · LOGO FRENCH · LOGO BEARCUTE · LOGO SUNSKY · LOGO JESUS5
LOGO HARTLOVE · LOGO LUVPAWS · LOGO COOL5 · LOGO DOG · LOGO SMILES5
LOGO SEXYMA · LOGO 2ANGELS · LOGO 8BALL1 · LOGO PLAY1 · LOGO SPARKS
LOGO ULUVME · LOGO 4MYLUV · LOGO ANGELBR · LOGO DELETE · LOGO RAGLOGO1
LOGO LUVBIRDS · LOGO SCORPION4 · LOGO 2HARTS · LOGO CHERUBIN · LOGO SKULLFIRE
LOGO HART4SALE · LOGO ANGELEYE · LOGO CUPIDS · LOGO CUTE16 · LOGO IMY
LOGO AGILA1 · LOGO 2GETHER4 · LOGO BWORD · LOGO HUNNY · LOGO LOVE1
LOGO 4EVERLUV · LOGO COOLDOOG · LOGO ANGDEV · LOGO FACE1 · LOGO BEARDATE
LOGO 4MULA1 · LOGO GIMME5 · LOGO DRAGON8 · LOGO LUVBUG · LOGO OKIBA
LOGO SEXYBABY · LOGO HELLOKID · LOGO GANDA · LOGO BAGIRA · LOGO LUVCHAIN
LOGO MRSUAVE1 · LOGO KUMUSTA · LOGO SEXYLADY · LOGO CATNDOG1 · LOGO FACES3

## Picture Messages



PIC BESPREN2 · PIC WUZUP · PIC SEXYBABE · PIC DUYAN · PIC CUPIDO · PIC UANGEL · PIC PISTAYO
PIC BANIWABIT · PIC BEMINE1 · PIC IMYCRAZY · PIC URINMY · PIC 2FACES · PIC SABIK1 · PIC BIGNOSE
PIC BEARHUG1 · PIC BHAPI · PIC SWANS · PIC ROMANCE · PIC AKOSUAVE · PIC CUTEKO

## Ringtones

| Ringtone | Artist/Composer | Keywords |
|---|---|---|
| *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* | Traditional | **TONE HARK** |
| *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* | Traditional | **TONE BELLSONXMAS** |
| *Jingle Bells* | Traditional | **TONE JINGLEBELLS** |
| *Jolly Old Saint Nick* | Traditional | **TONE SAINTNICK** |
| *Joy to the World* | Traditional | **TONE JOYWORLD** |
| *O Come All Ye Faithful* | Traditional | **TONE OCOME** |
| *O Holy Night* | Traditional | **TONE HOLYNIGHT** |
| *O Little Town of Bethlehem* | Traditional | **TONE OLITTLE** |
| *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* | Traditional | **TONE RUDOLPH** |
| *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* | Traditional | **TONE SANTACLAUS** |
| *Silent Night* | Traditional | **TONE SILENTNITE** |
| *The First Noel* | Traditional | **TONE FIRSTNOEL** |
| *We Three Kings of Orient Are* | Traditional | **TONE 3KINGS** |
| *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* | Traditional | **TONE WEWISHU** |
| *Mr. Suave* | Parokya ni Edgar | **TONE MRSUAVE** |
| *Spaghetti Song* | Sexbomb | **TONE SPAG** |
| *Maybe* | Enrique Iglesias | **TONE MAYBE** |
| *Where Is The Love* | Black Eyed Peas | **TONE WERISLUV** |
| *I'll Be* | Edwin McCain | **TONE IBE** |
| *Kanlungan* | Noel Cabangon | **TONE KANLUNGAN** |
| *Perfect* | True Faith | **TONE PERFECT** |
| *Unwell* | Matchbox 20 | **TONE UNWELL** |
| *From The Inside* | Linkin Park | **TONE FROMTHE** |
| *Baby, I'm In Love* | Thalia | **TONE BABYIM** |
| *Mr. Suave Version 2* | Parokya ni Edgar | **TONE MRSUAVE2** |
| *Get Busy* | Sean Paul | **TONE GETBUSY** |
| *Broken Vow* | Lara Fabian | **TONE BROKEN** |
| *I Wanna Be With You* | Mandy Moore | **TONE WANNABEW** |
| *I Want You* | Thalia & Fat Joe | **TONE IWANTU** |
| *Pare Ko* | Eraserheads | **TONE PAREKO** |
| *Makewish* | Vic Zhou | **TONE MAKEWISH** |
| *Numb* | Linkin Park | **TONE NUMB** |
| *Ignition* | R. Kelly | **TONE IGNI** |
| *Roc Ya Body Mic Check 1-2* | MVP feat. Stagga Lee | **TONE ROCYA** |
| *Ignition* | R. Kelly | **TONE IGNI** |
| *Can't Lose You* | F4 | **TONE CANTLOSE** |
| *The Next Episode* | Dr. Dre | **TONE NEXTEP** |

**How to download a logo, ringtone, picture message or mms graphic:**

LOGO
MRSUAVE1

1. Type in keyword Ex. LOGO MRSUAVE1; TONE CANTLOSE, PIC BIGNOSE or MMS MBSMITH

288

2. Send to 288

mr suave

3. Save upon receiving logo, ringtone, picture message or mms graphics.

To send logo, tone, picture message or mms graphic to a friend, type **<keyword> <cellphone number>** and send to 288.

To send a logo,
LOGO MRSUAVE1 09181234567

To send a tone,
TONE CANTLOSE 09181234567

To send a picture message,
PIC BIGNOSE 09181234567

To send an mms graphic,
MMS MBSMITH 09181234567

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# Scenemakers

## Cheaper by the dozen

Some 250 Santa Clauses and Christmas angels gathered recently in front of the Opera Palais in Berlin, after being briefed about their upcoming tasks during the Christmas weeks. They are appearing in warehouses, on the street but can also be booked for special occasions via a telephone hotline. On average, a Santa Claus gets 12 assignments, which makes him around 300 euros. *AFP*

## Battle royale vs illiteracy

Monaco's Princess Caroline brought the paparazzi in tow when she was made a Goodwill Ambassador at Unesco's Paris headquarters. She received the honor from the director of the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Koochiro Matsuura, before her German husband, Ernst August Hanover, fashion designer Karl Lagerfield and Franco-Italian actress Claudia Cardinale. The princess vowed to support Unesco's programme of fighting illiteracy in the world. *AFP*

## Madonna's toys

Years ago, if someone said Madonna was selling toys, one would assume sex toys. But that, darling, is so yesterday for the ever evolving diva-turned-movie-star-turned-Gap-spokeswoman-turned-children's-author whose publishing blitz in kids books has now paved the way for a new line of products based on her book, "The English Roses." She has a deal to develop dolls, apparel, accessories, cosmetics, stationery, room décor and back-to-school products aimed at the "pre-tween" readers, aged 7 to 12, who made Madonna's book a hit. The "Roses" products begin rolling out in early 2004. *Reuters*

## Playboy turns gold

The magazine founded by Hugh Hefner, shown here holding the December 1953 copy with Marilyn Monroe on the cover, celebrates its 50th anniversary this month. The pop culture icon is moving to reinvent its 'Swinging 60s' image for a new generation of pleasure seekers. From an idea born on Hefner's Chicago kitchen table, Playboy has become a huge business empire and one of the world's most recognizable brands. With its centerfold pinups, the magazine has evolved from what was regarded as smut into a glamour publication that Sharon Stone, Cindy Crawford and Kim Basinger and other stars clamored to pose nude for. Playboy is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this December. *AFP*

## Premiere Bloom

Orlando Bloom arrives for the world premiere of "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" at the Embassy Theatre in Wellington. The movie is the third in a trilogy by director Peter Jackson based on the book by JRR Tolkien. *Reuters*

Cotton Rich Non-Iron Shirt **P1850**
Silk Tie **P1150**

Golf Club Covers **P1250**
Club Care Kit **P995**

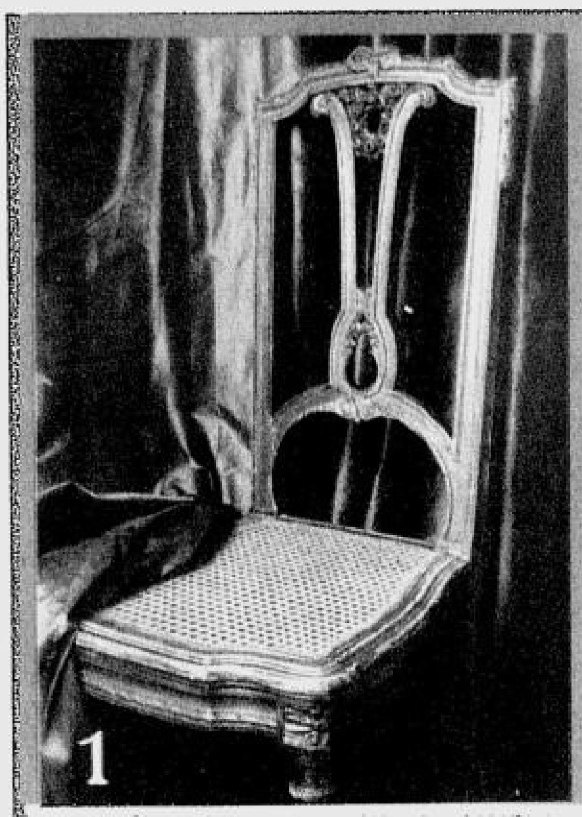
Exterior Car Care Kit **P1250**

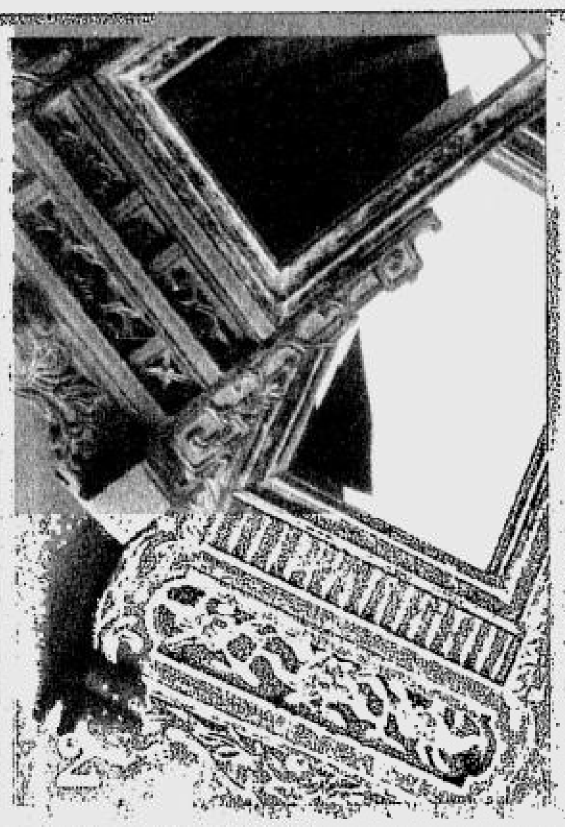
Leather Wallets
Hip, Coin & ID **P1850** / Tri-fold **P1550** / Hip **P1250**
2 Per Pack Boxers **P1250**

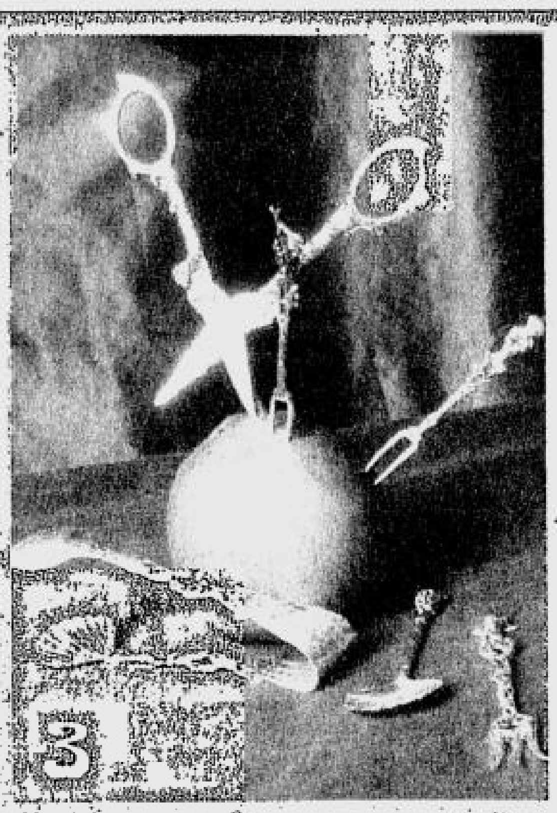
MARKS & SPENCER

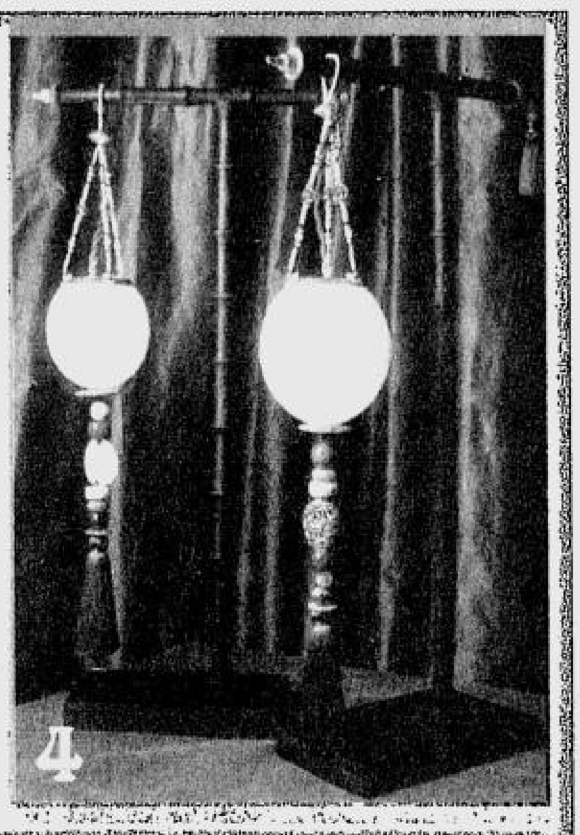
Glorietta 4 (752-7471) • Greenbelt 3 (757-4816) • Shangri-La Plaza Mall (637-2480)
Alabang Town Center (842-4558) • SM Megamall A (632-1473)
Robinsons Place Manila (522-7871/76) • Rustan's Harrison Plaza (526-0857)
Power Plant Mall (898-0946-48) • Ayala Center Cebu (032-234-1005)
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (045-636-3546)

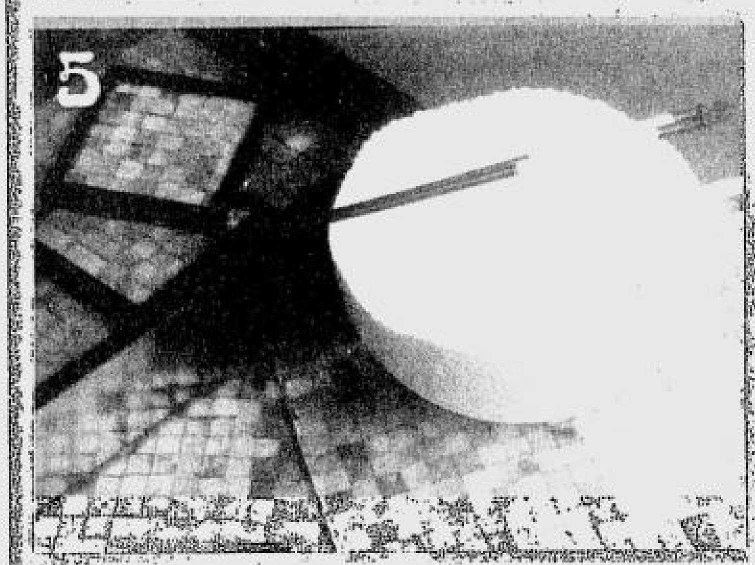
*Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc. (RMSI) is the official franchise of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines*







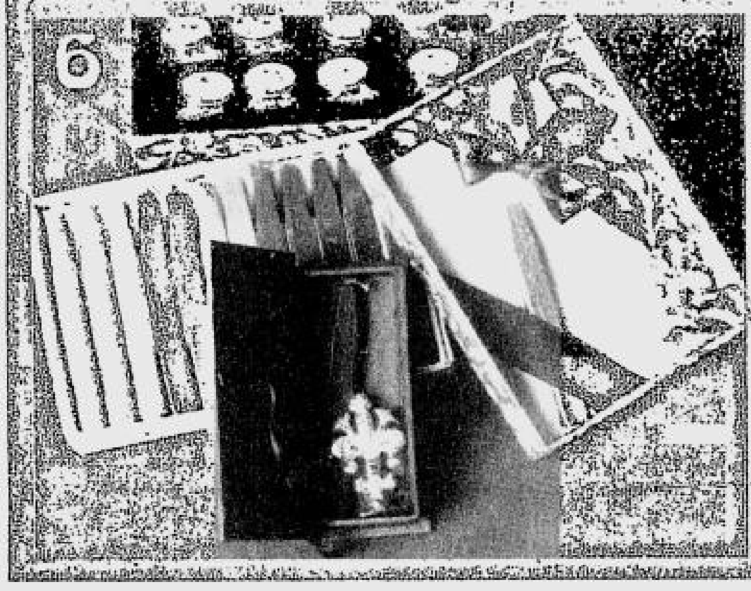


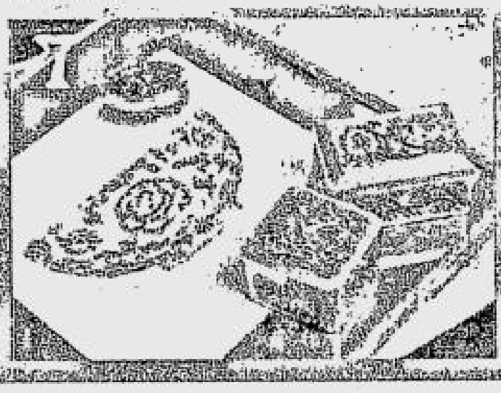


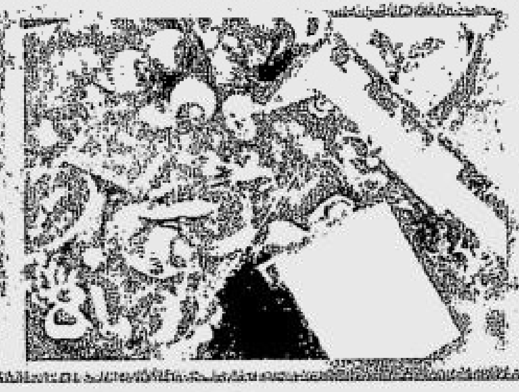
1. 1800s French gilded chair with cane weaving
2. Antique Chinoiserie tabletop mirrors
3. Silver fruit cutters, cocktail forks and sugarcube tongs from Castellani
4. Luxe Pendant Ostrich Egg Lamps with antique ivory medallion paintings, coral, jade, silver and silk tassel embellishments by Chito Vijandre
5. Textured porcelain bowl and mosaic capiz placemats, trays and coasters by Al Caronan
6. Wax Seal Stationery sets by Castellani
7. Repousse Silver boxes and Chinoiserie paintings with gold-leafed hand-carved frames
8. Rich colors and scents of Christmas potpourri
9. Couture silk pillows with hand-embroidered designs and semiprecious stones by Chito Vijandre

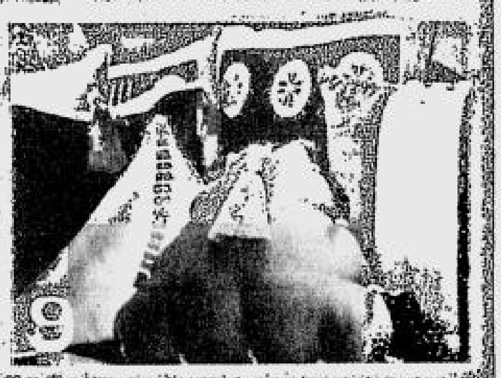
# *Royal treasures*

The romance of antiques and finely aged objects defies time and the seasons. This Christmas, Firma brings back the lost gilded age of the Medicis and the maharajahs with this exquisite collection of timelessly glamorous pieces and dainty details for the home. Firma is at the ground floor of Greenbelt 3. Call 7574009.

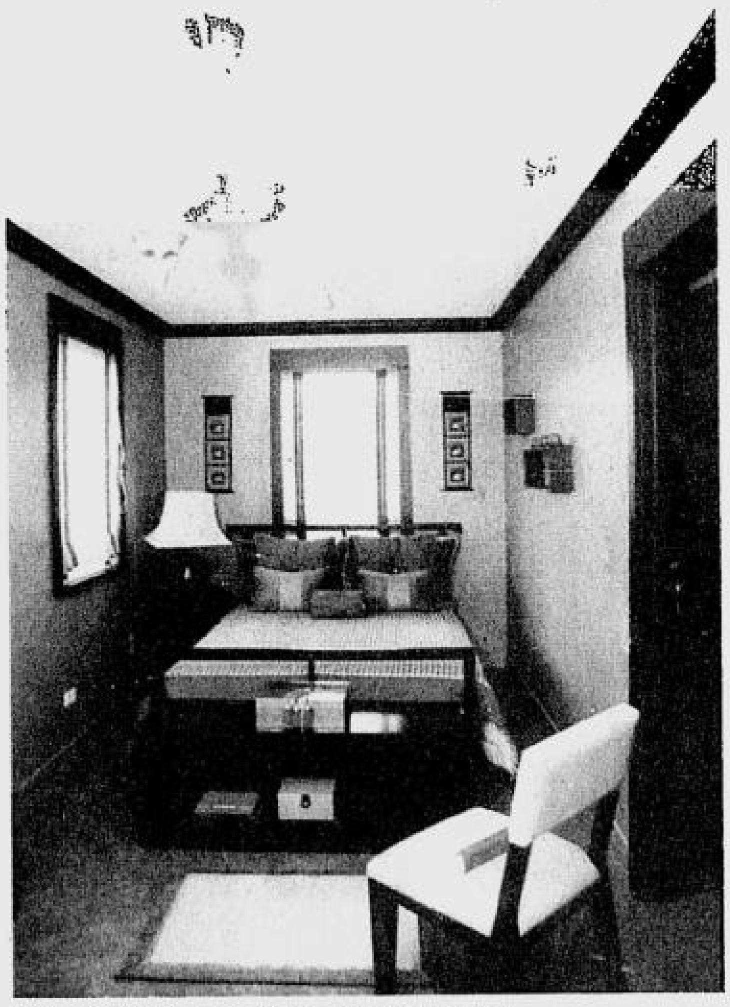






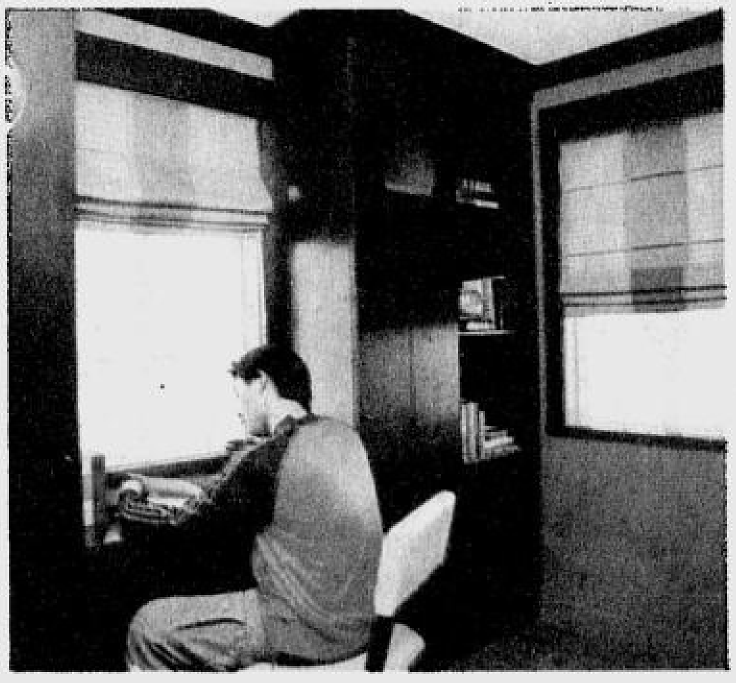


**ORIENTAL** living room: East meets West—Asian flavor in the midst of Italian splendor



**A TOUCH** of the Orient in the master bedroom

# *Affordable sanctuary*



**AN ECOLOGICALLY** sound environment that fosters good living and quiet pleasures—like reading at home on an ordinary day

FORTEZZA, the newest community project of Crown Asia, is set amidst the picturesque beauty of Cabuyao in Laguna, which boasts of a flourishing international, multicultural community. Near enough to where the daily mêlée takes place, yet a world removed, Fortezza is a sanctuary.

Fortezza is a self-contained area, with its own commercial area, multi-purpose hall, basketball court and children's playground. It also features open spaces and beautifully landscaped pocket gardens that encourage you to take a stroll and breathe in the real beauty of nature.

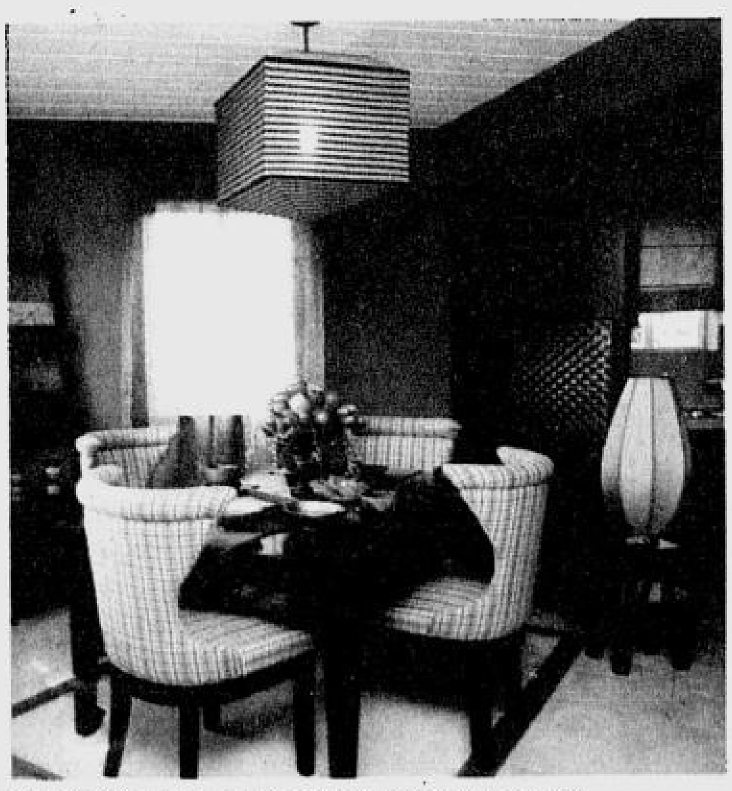
More worldly concerns are not a problem, as it is fully-fenced with 24-hour security and a landscaped entrance gate and guard house. Water is also distributed 24 hours a day.

Accessible via the South Super Highway, it is only five minutes away from the Cabuyao Exit. Living in Fortezza is definitely conducive to a cosmopolitan lifestyle.

Fortezza is another project of Crown Asia, the pioneer in creating and building master-planned communities. Crown Asia goes beyond the usual build-and-sell of real estate; they are intent on forming long-term partnerships with homeowners.

Crown Asia combines strategic locations with wise land use and master planning, offering self-contained communities that promote ecologically sound environments, family values and goodwill among neighbors. Their home designs continue to blaze trails. Among their most popular communities are Maia Alta in Antipolo and Citta Italia in Bacoor.

Call 8731614, 8713882 or 8738412.



**MODERN** living amenities with a warm, intimate feel

# Mall opens new wing

EAST Wing, the newest and most exciting addition to Robinsons Galleria, recently held its Grand Launch at the 1/L of the former San Miguel Node.

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC) executives led by James L. Go (chair and CEO), Lance Y. Gokongwei (president and COO), Frederick D. Go (executive vice president) and Nilo S. Mapa (general manager for commercial centers) welcomed invitees headed by the guest of honor, QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

A presentation hosted by model-TV host Angel Aquino highlighted the three major components of East Wing, namely shopping, dining and wellness.

To showcase the wing's tenants, The Miss Robinsons finalists, plus other professional models, donned apparel from Robinsons Department Store, Chocolate Clothing Company, Terranova, Lacoste, Van Heusen, SPF, Royal Sporting House, Wade, VNC, EO Eyestyles, Asian Finds and The 50th Avenue.

Accent pieces from Funktionell, Dimensione, Showcase Carpet, Urban Effects and Country Lifestyle were also displayed on the set.

Jesi Mendez and C n' C took care of the models' hair and makeup, which were provided by Beauty Bar, Watson's and ZA Cosmetics.

Gold's Gym rendered a very entertaining number, while Gloria Jeans Coffees, Sticks Japanese Bistro, Oody's and Back to Basics gave guests samples of their specialties.

East Wing spans three levels of Robinsons Galleria and is filled with shops that will suit any mall buff's fancy.

The East Wing grand opening was also supported by Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. Nestlé Pink Lemonade, Viva Mineral Water, Jack n' Jill Taquitos, Growers Nuts, Moreau Wines, Carlos Primero, Fundador Gold Reserve, Molinera Fresh Juices, Paradise Mango Liquer, Wild Vines, Tabacalera Cigars, R & B Ice and ZA Cosmetics.

Call 3952507 and 6875681 locals 355 or 356. E-mail roseann.villegas@rlc.com.ph

**A TOAST** to East Wing's success: RLC general manager for commercial centers Nilo Mapa, chair and CEO James Go, QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Miss Holiday Inn Galleria Manila Wong Wye Yeng, president and COO Lance Gokongwei and executive VP Frederick Go

dimensione

**MODERN** fixtures and home furnishings are available at Dimensione at 1/L, East Wing.

**VIRGILIO** Lim and Ben Chan of Bench

**JESI** Mendez (center) with RLC VP for lease operations Minda Carpio (left) and Justine Mendoza

**MARK** Dayrit

**STORES** Specialists Inc.'s Anton Huang

**MIKE** Advani, president of Chocolate Clothing Company; William Antonio with daughter Raine and Ana Amigo Antonio, VP and managing director of Chocolate Clothing Company

BIG DEAL.

EARN AS MUCH AS 100%* MORE THAN YOUR REGULAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR AS LITTLE AS Php5,000.

The PHILAM BOND FUND

As a member company of one of the largest and most diversified financial groups in the country, Philam Asset Management, Inc., is continuously looking for ways to use its billions of pesos in resources, the expertise of its professional staff, and its sincere mission of helping every Filipino live a better life. With The Philam Funds, we've succeeded in giving many hard-working, savings-conscious, future-oriented Filipinos a new and better way for their money to make more money.

Earn as much as 100%* more than your regular savings account for as little as Php5,000

For more details and copies of the fund's prospectus, call your Philam Group agent or counsellor or call 867-3912 to 18.

*Projections are made based on historical performance. Figures can be validated from reports of the Investment Company Association of the Philippines (ICAP) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Past performances are not indicative of future performances. The fund's performance may fluctuate.

You have just found one of the safer, more secure ways to grow your peso savings with the Philam Bond Fund. This low-risk, capital preservation oriented vehicle invests in short to long-term fixed-income securities like treasury bills, notes and other government securities fully guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines.

Now, imagine this: for just a minimum investment of Php5,000, you'll receive more interest than what ordinary savings or time deposit accounts offer. The Philam Bond Fund's six-month yield is equivalent to an annualized return of 8.57%*per annum. From December 31, 2002 to June 30, 2003, investors in the Fund already earned 4.25% (net of taxes)*. What could be a bigger deal than that?

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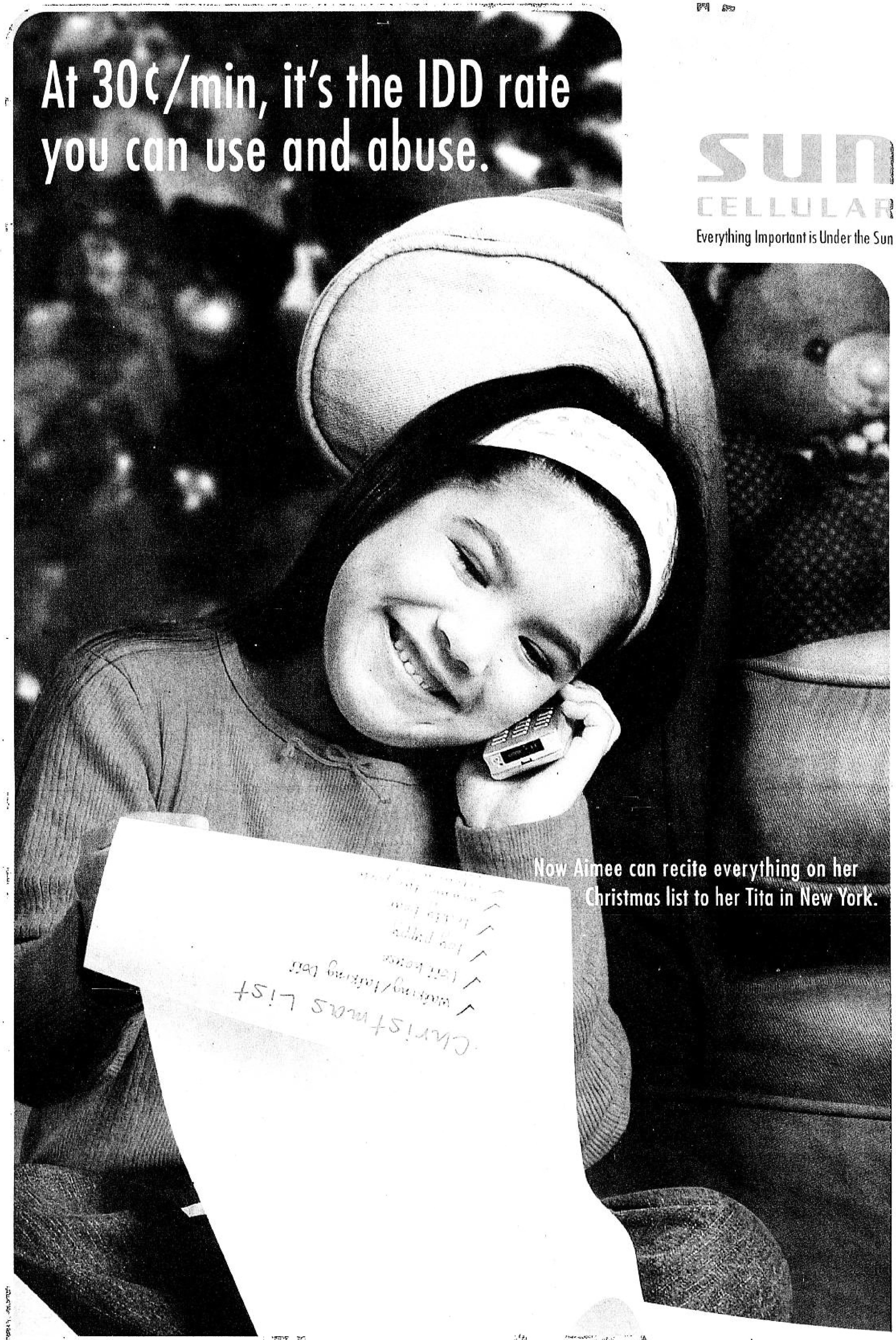

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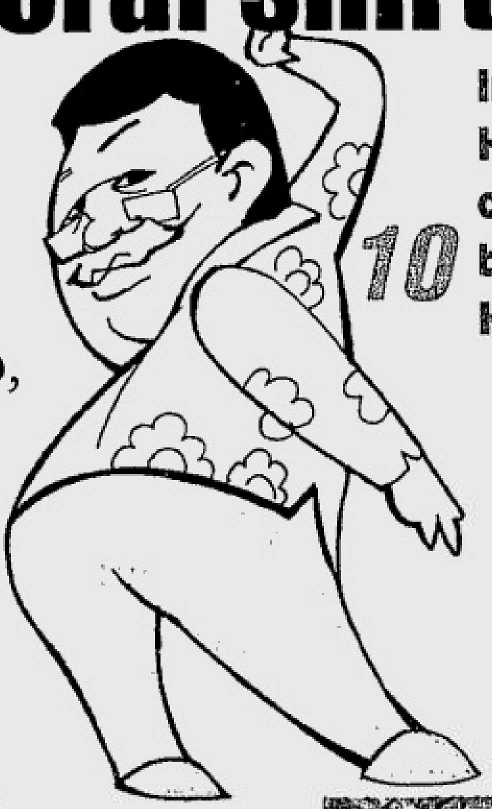
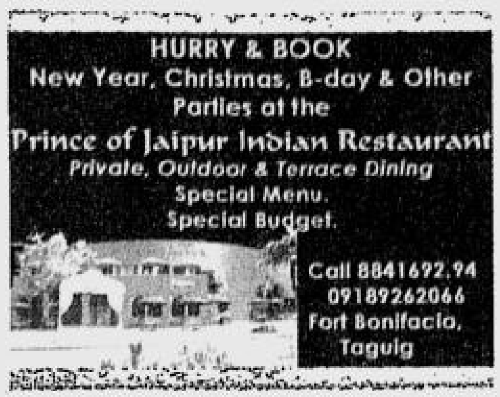
# Top 10 reasons Raul Roco wears floral shirts

Everything seems to be coming up roses for presidential aspirant Raul Roco, particularly his wardrobe. But if some of you wonder why he keeps on wearing those sissy florals, here are a number of verdant reasons.



**10** In a past life he was a Hawaiian surfer. But since he obviously does not have the body now, he wears Hawaiian shirts.

TOP 10/L4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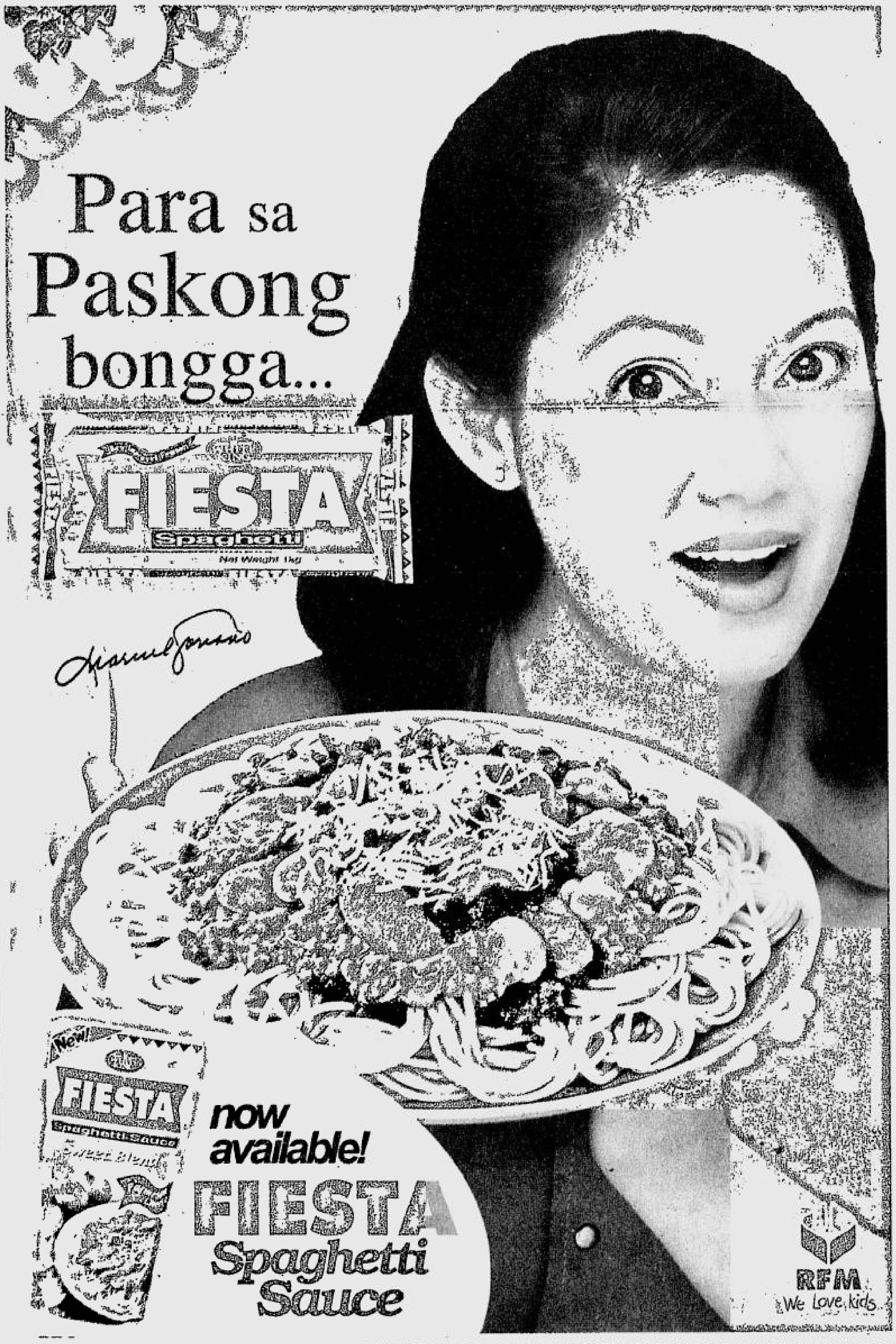
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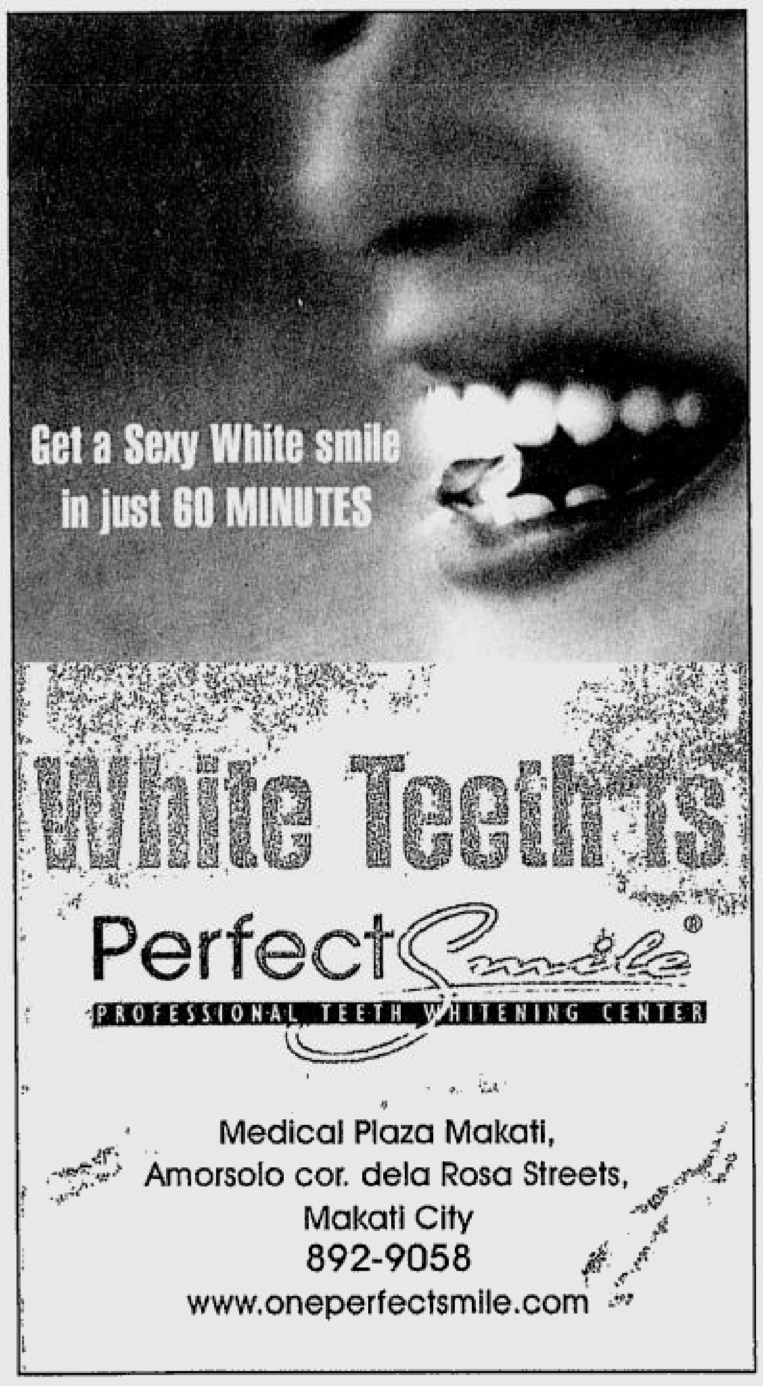
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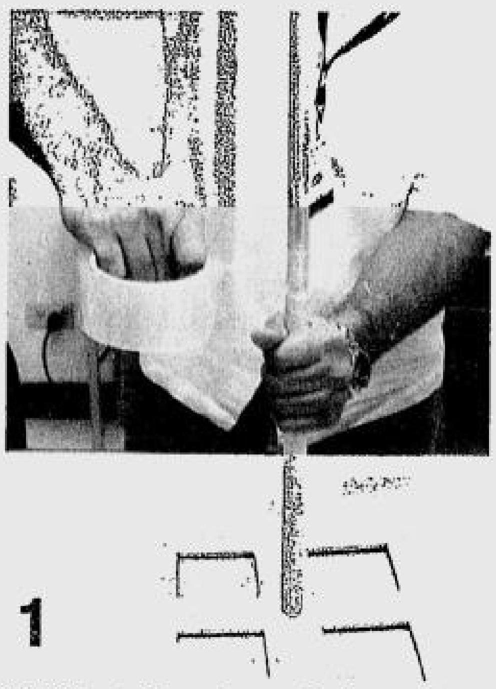
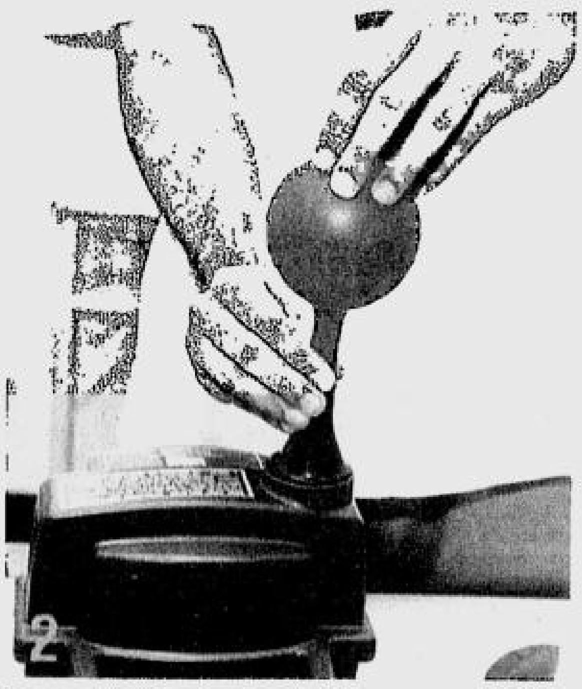


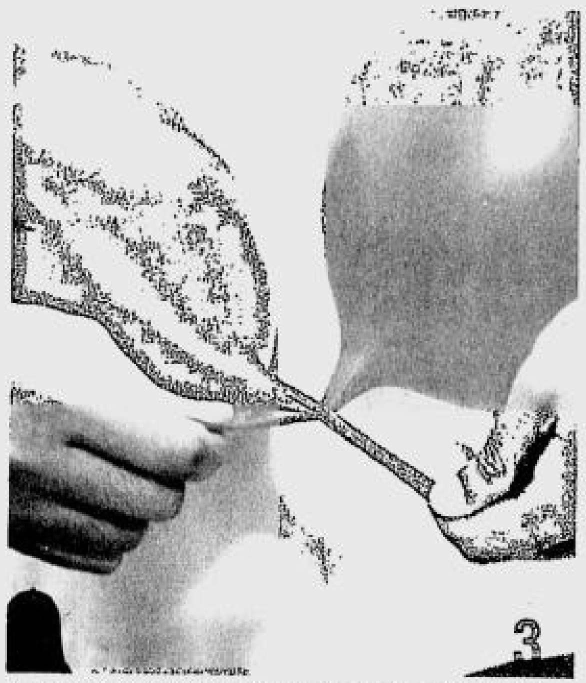
1

**PLACE** metal base plate on the floor and insert the aluminum tube. Secure the connection with a duct tape.



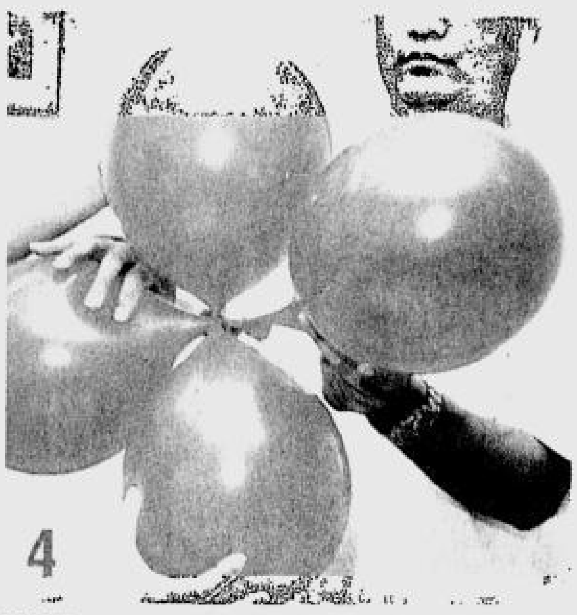
2

**USING** an electric inflator or a hand pump, inflate the round balloon.



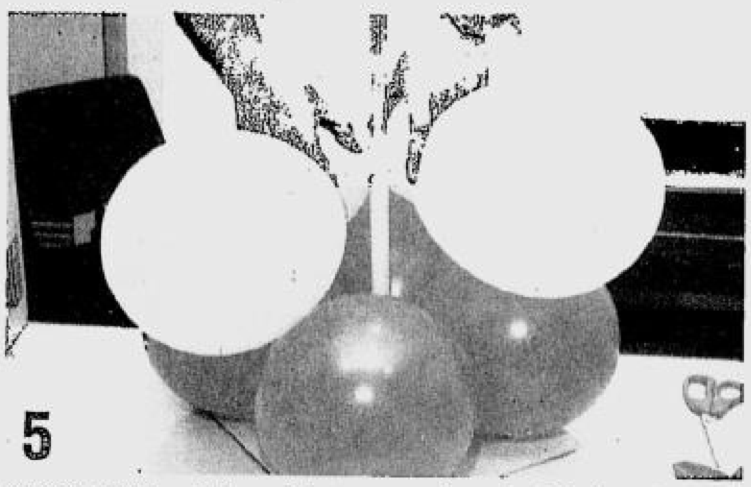
3

**BLOW** up another red balloon to make a "duplet" (paired balloons). Tie both ends together.



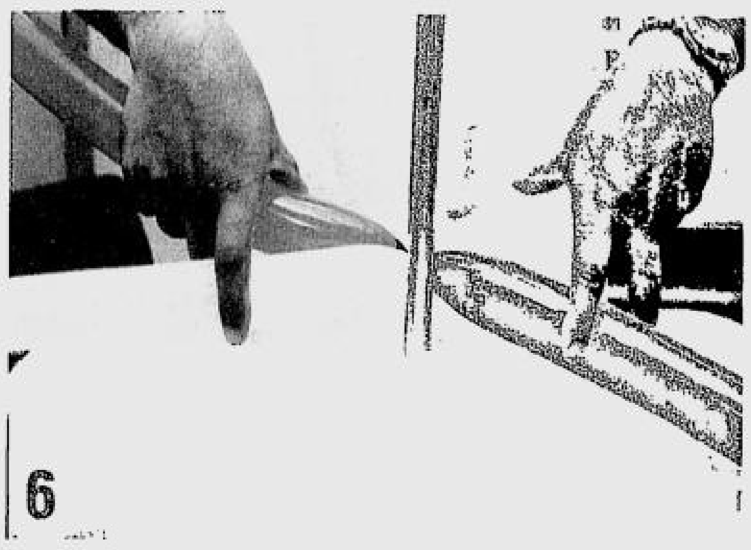
4

**MAKE** another "duplet" to create a four-cluster set. Get the middle part of the two duplets and twist. Then, make another cluster using white round balloons.



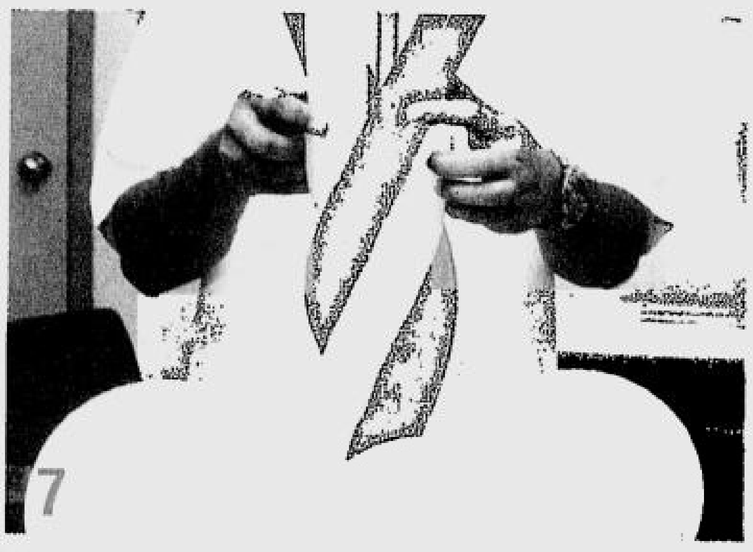
5

**CAREFULLY** insert the red cluster onto the neck of the base plate, twisting the two balloons in front to secure their spot. Insert the white cluster.



6

**MEANWHILE,** using a hand pump, inflate two red and two white hotdog balloons. Then, make a cluster by combining the red and white duplets.



7

**SLOWLY** work your way up around the aluminum tube, alternating the red and white balloons.

# Balloons to go

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Roger Carpio**

**CRAFTS**

> Balloon decorating can be a fascinating pastime and money-saving hobby

MAKING décor out of balloons requires a little bit of skill and creativity, but it is very simple and fun to learn.

For this project, Bing Reyes, balloon artist of Filstar Distributors Corporation, demonstrates a classic balloon design ideal as pillars or columns for the stage, dance floors, aisles or entrance doors.

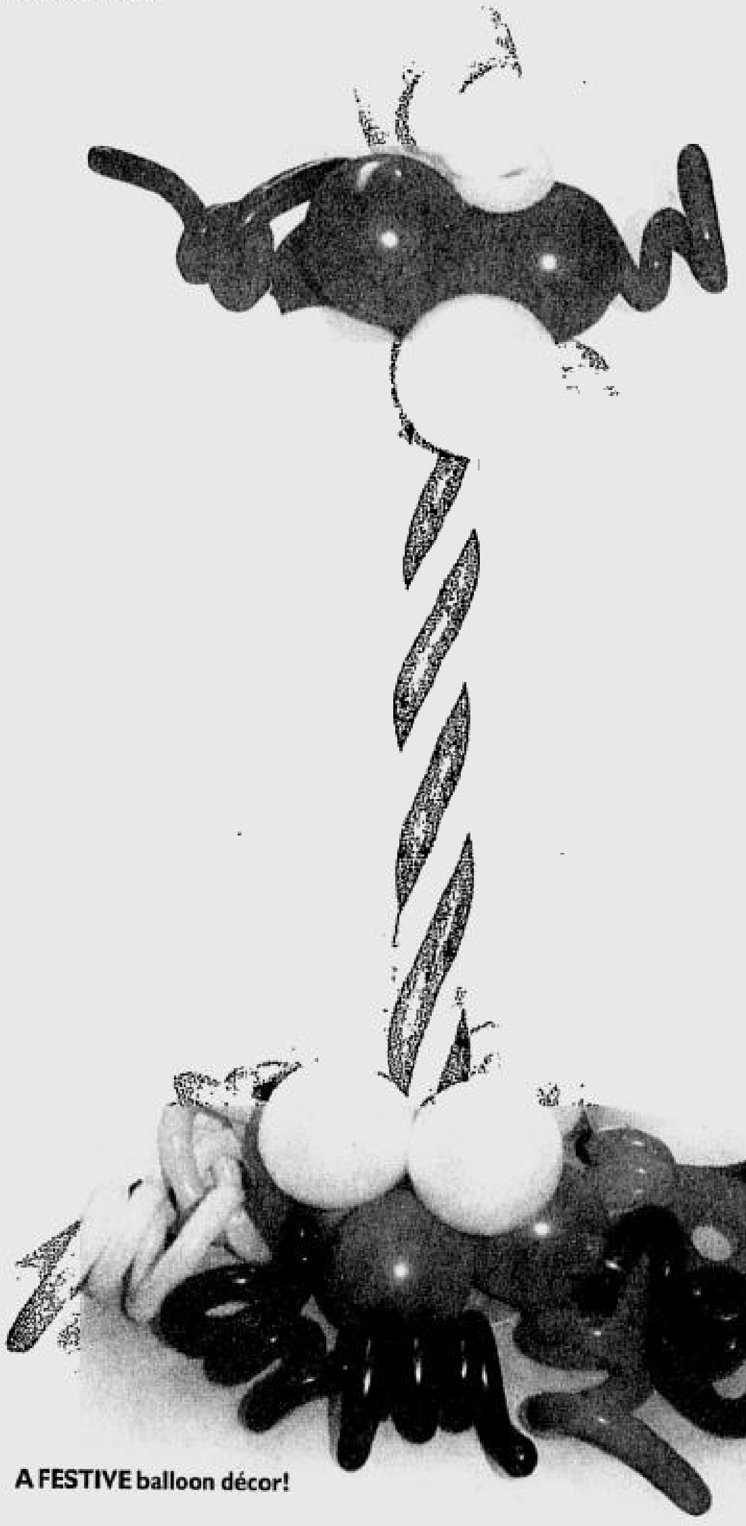
You will need a metal base plate to secure the décor, a transparent packaging tape, an eight-ft aluminum tube, an electric inflator or hand pump, a balloon sizer, 11" round balloons, 260" hotdog balloons and a pair of scissors.

You can get base plates and rods from your neighborhood machine shops.

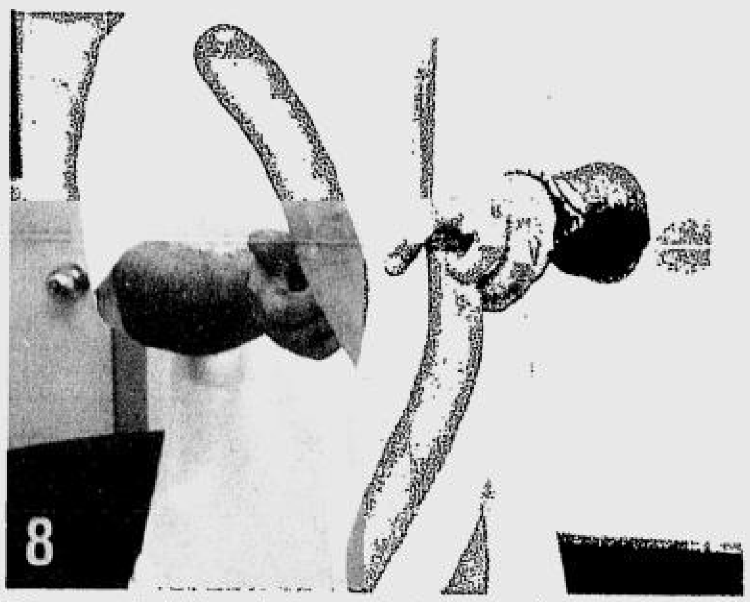
Most balloons, whether round or long, can be purchased in bags of 100 at a cheap price. Filstar (tel. 6710555) sells balloons and other balloon accessories. Filstar is the authorized distributor of Qualatex Balloons, USA. Qualatex latex balloons (also known as rubber balloons) are made from 100-percent biodegradable latex.

To anyone with an interest in balloon twisting, balloon entertaining or the commercial balloon business, Filstar, also the exclusive licensee of Hallmark Cards, conducts workshops on classic balloon décor. It also offers numerous balloon-decorating ideas from simple balloon centerpieces to giant balloon arches, all designed to enhance your special event.

*E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

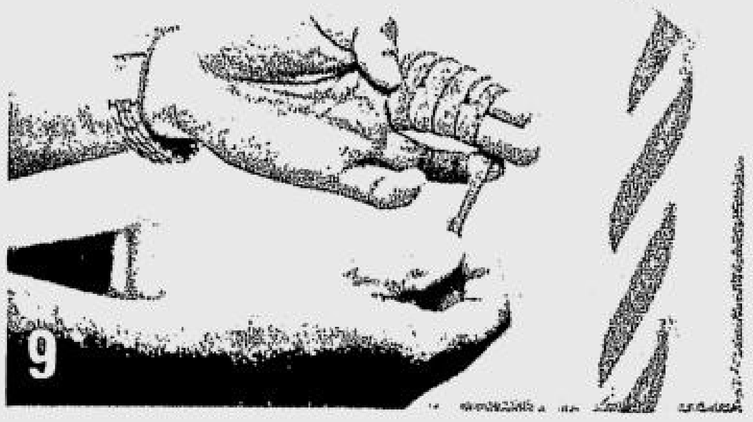


**A FESTIVE** balloon décor!



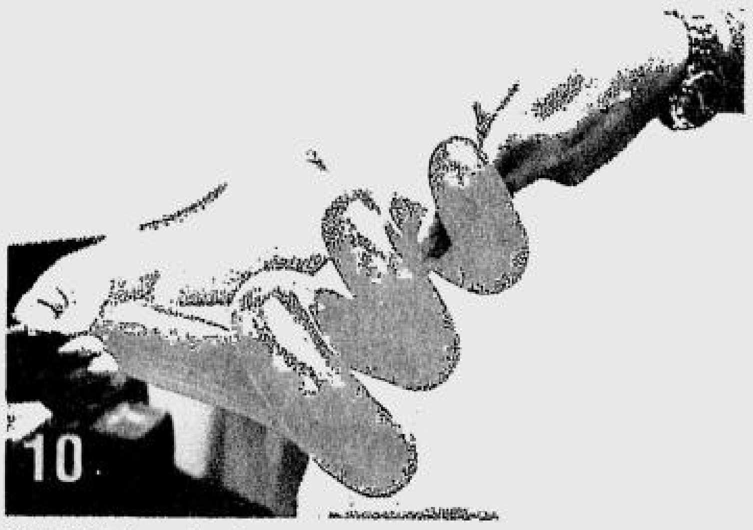
8

**TO** secure the balloons in place, grab the longest hotdog balloon and strap it around the tube. Twist and tie it tightly around the tube. Deflate excess air. Create another four-balloon cluster of red and white round balloons and place them on top of the aluminum tube.



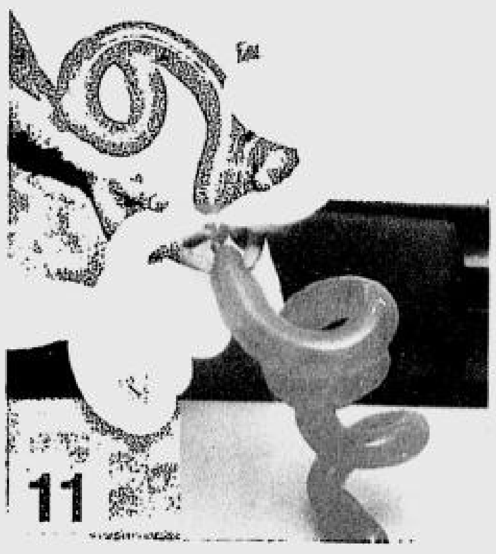
9

**AS** accent pieces, make a balloon twirl. Using your left hand (particularly your index and middle fingers), make four loops of hotdog balloons.



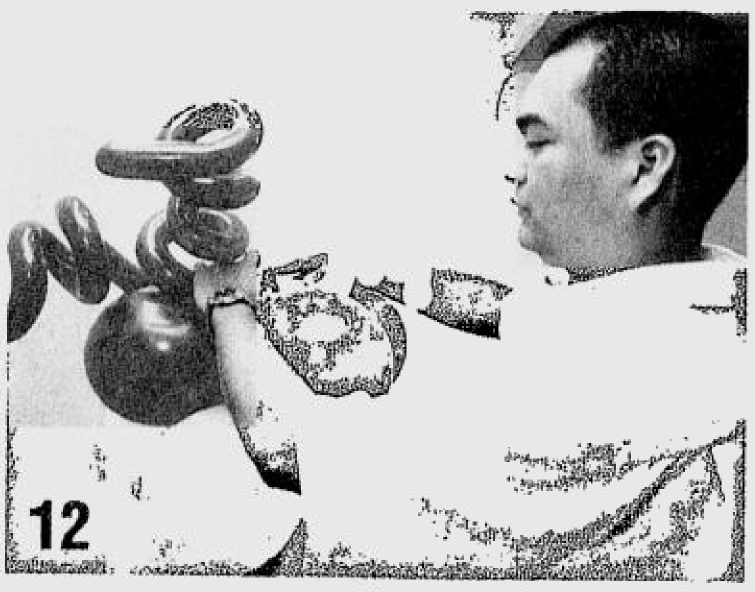
10

**INFLATE** using a hand pump.



11

**MAKE** a cluster of red and white hotdog balloons and tie them all together.



12

**AFFIX** them on top of the tube, twisting two balloons to secure their spot.

AND TXT AND TXT AND TXT AND TXT AND TXT AND

REY Palmiery, Lydia Reyes, Calixto Cataguis, Emy Palmiery, Cristina Vilar and Ramil Estrope

PRESIDENT Emy Palmiery, Eliss Isaac, Juliet Uy, Adeliza Barcelona, Wenda Gonzalez and Edita Buendia

JOEY and Cathy Vilar

TERESITA Valde

# MLQ's organization marks 80th anniversary

THE QUEZON (Tayabas) Association (QTA) marked its 80th anniversary recently with a ball at the Westin Philippine Plaza's Grand Ballroom.

Ambassador Wang Chun Gui of the People's Republic of China ambassador and Quezon Rep. Aleta Suarez were special guests. They crowned Abigail Rose S. Cataquiz as Miss QTA 2003, replacing last year's title holder Olivia Rosita S. Dimaano. Reynaldo U. Palmiery Jr. escorted the new Miss QTA.

The QTA was organized in 1923 by the late President Manuel L. Quezon to help in the uplift of the less fortunate in the then province of Tayabas, which has since been named after him.

Composed of professionals, entrepreneurs, civic and political leaders who trace their roots to the province, QTA has conducted health care and education-related projects, livelihood programs and other community services. Last year, its projects included a scholarship program for deserving students at the Manuel Enverga University, livelihood project in Unisan, free medical and dental services in Polillo, and financial contribution to the clean-up of Mt. Banahaw.

This year, in line with the government's tourism drive and the global concern for the environment, the QTA will focus on environment care and development of Quezon Province's selected lakes, rivers and mountains. Sen. Loren Legarda was among the donors for the association's environmental projects.

During this year's anniversary ball, the traditional Rigodon de Honor, was participated in not just by prominent individuals from Quezon but also by choreographer Cristina Ocampo.

QTA's Young Professionals through present presidents Aaron Cataquis and Paulene Valde, and past presidents Cristina S. Vilar, Ramil Estrope and Mariza Barcelona presented a Latin dance exhibition.

QTA's 80th anniversary celebration began with a thanksgiving Mass. Later, awards for Outstanding Citizens of Quezon and Contributors to the Province were presented by the 2003 QTA officers, led by presidents Calico R. Cataquiz and Emy U. Palmiery.

BELGIAN Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe, Portugal Ambassador Joao Caetano Da Silva, Sri Lankan Ambassador Ariya Rekawa; (seated) Gul Tanghe, Ulrike da Silva, Bobbit Goudsmith and Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam

LAWYER Popoy de Leon, Antonio Villar and Gov. Justo Ortiz; (seated) Amelita de Leon, Fe Vilar and Gov. Baby Ortiz

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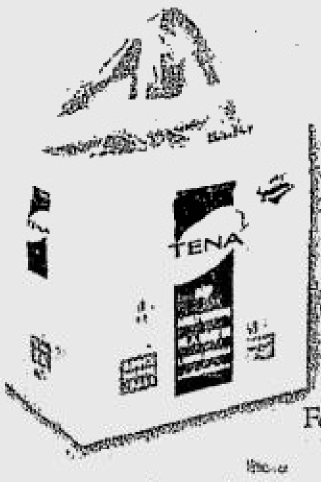

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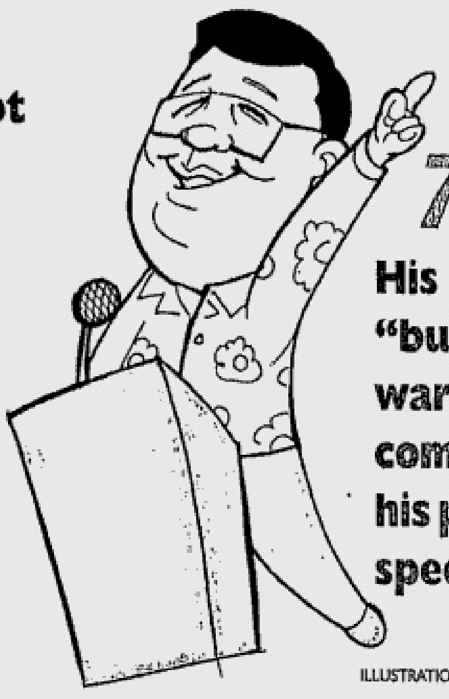
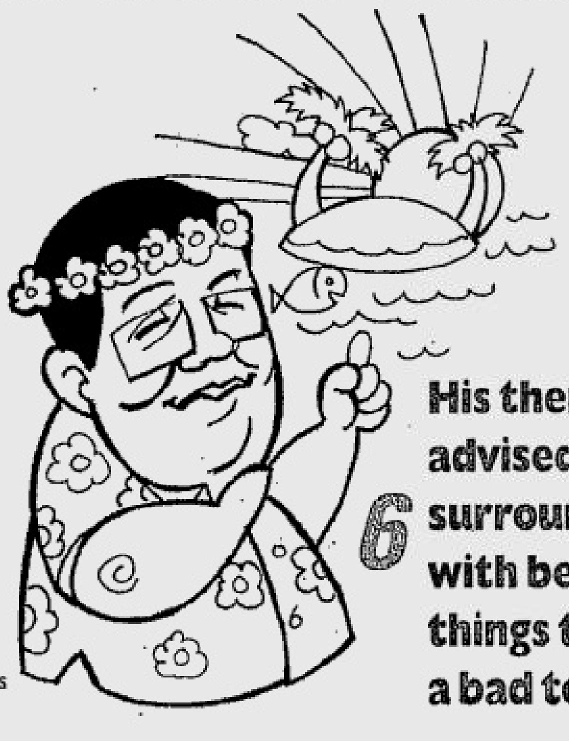
# Top 10 reasons Raul Roco wears floral shirts

**9** If he did not win, he could run a flower shop instead.

**8** He has Imelda Cojuangco's fashion sense.

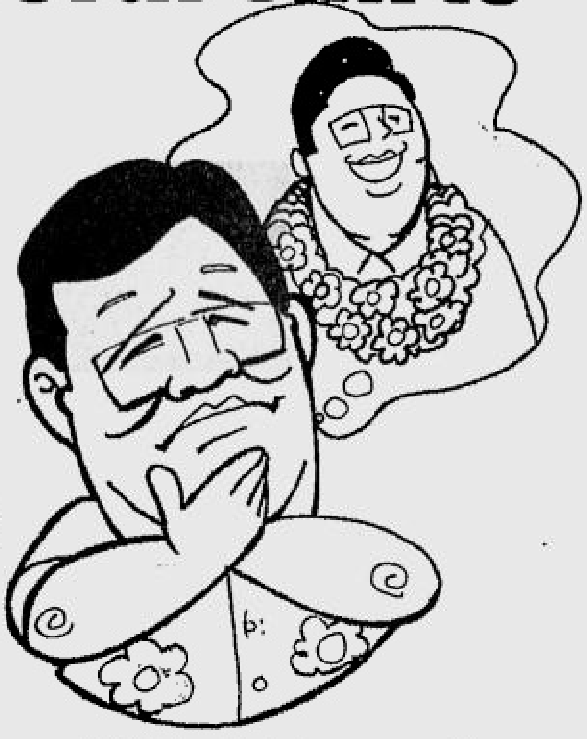


**7** His "bulaklakin" wardrobe complements his political speeches.

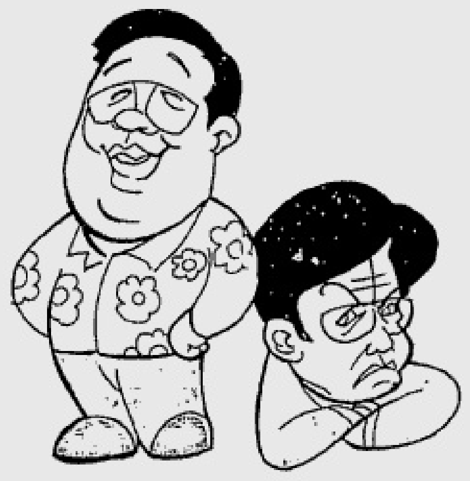


ILLUSTRATIONS: LUIS ANTHONY MISTADES

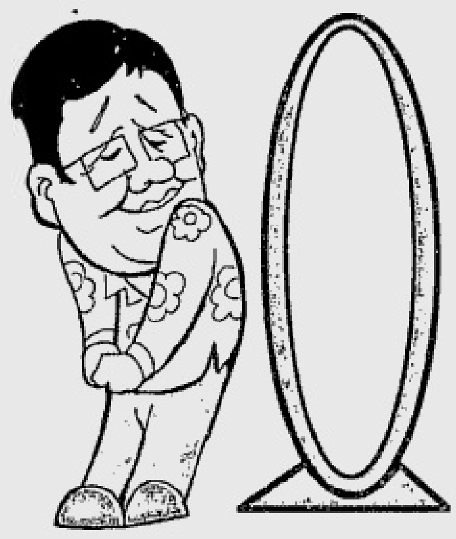
**6** His therapist advised him to surround himself with beautiful things to temper a bad temper.



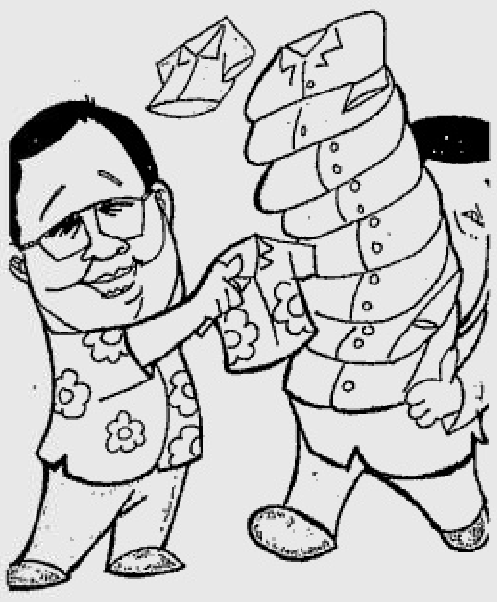
**5** He thinks a garden spread all over his girth is more photogenic than GMA with gumamela in her hair.



**4** It's his way of touching base with his feminine side. 'Baka sabihin ni Ping, siya lang.'



**3** Wearing rosy shirts is his answer to FPJ's secret weapon: Susan Roces!



**2** He buys flower-printed fabric in bulk together with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza at Nepa Q.

**1** He's pro-environment so he recycles the used curtains and tabletops at home.

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# Sure-fire ways toward a kookier Christmas

**TESSA!**

*Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

Buy the Assumption Cookbook to learn how to 'make tusok-tusok the fishball' and host a show in Madonna regalia

**ASSUMPTIONISTAS** of another batch. Lieza Orosa, Bing Ongsiako, Sea Princess, Liaa Bautista, Jojo Ongsiako, Mara Oledan and Janine Dario

THE READERS' feedback I receive through e-mail are so varied in content, but I am always thrilled to see them in my inbox, usually with my Friendster requests and spam. One day I'll write about Friendster etiquette (can one really turn down a Friendster request, even if it's from someone you don't know?) and spam (no, no, no, I do not want to increase the size of my "member.")

But today, I want to talk about my reader feedback, which ranges from some hate e-mail ("You and your friend **Kris Aquino** should be banished from this earth!") to more pleasant ones from Pinoys living in all corners of the world, as far as New Zealand and Saudi Arabia. Whether I receive good e-mail or bad, I am just happy to be part of many people's Sunday INQUIRER reading habit.

One recent e-mail even asked me who I would vote for at the coming elections. Since I have no intentions of influencing anyone's vote (the truth is I haven't given it even two seconds worth of thinking), all I will say is that life will go on, no matter who is in the government, despite what the government is not doing and in spite of the how badly the government is doing.

And that is enough of the "G" word! Back to froth and frippery. I will instead just suggest interesting gift ideas and activities to do over the holidays. That way, this side of the paper stays entertaining to read.

1. **Buy the Assumption HS Class '79 Cookbook.** Aside from getting best-loved recipes from the '79 batch members, the book's proceeds go to the Assumption Mission Schools and the Faculty Fund. Don't you love giving to charity and still getting something in return? At its book launch in One McKinley Arcade, Bonifacio Global City, I sampled the sumptuous dishes from the recipes while posing with the book's editor, **Marivic Limcaoco**. I had to maneuver my giant butterfly wings through the crowd of Assumptionistas and spotted the most honorable of them all, our dear President GMA. She must wonder from which side of the family I get my kookiness. For those not interested in cooking, I shall come out with a special dictionary of Assumption slang in a future column. ("Let's make *tusok-tusok* the fish balls.")

## Wishful giving

2. **Give to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.** Before the book launch, I was at the NBC tent because Joey 92.3 radio station hosted over 500 kids and their families to an unforgettable day of food, fun and games. The MAWF kids are terminally ill with cancer and are all granted their wishes. It's great to see these kids enjoying themselves, especially considering their un-

SURE-FIRE/ M2

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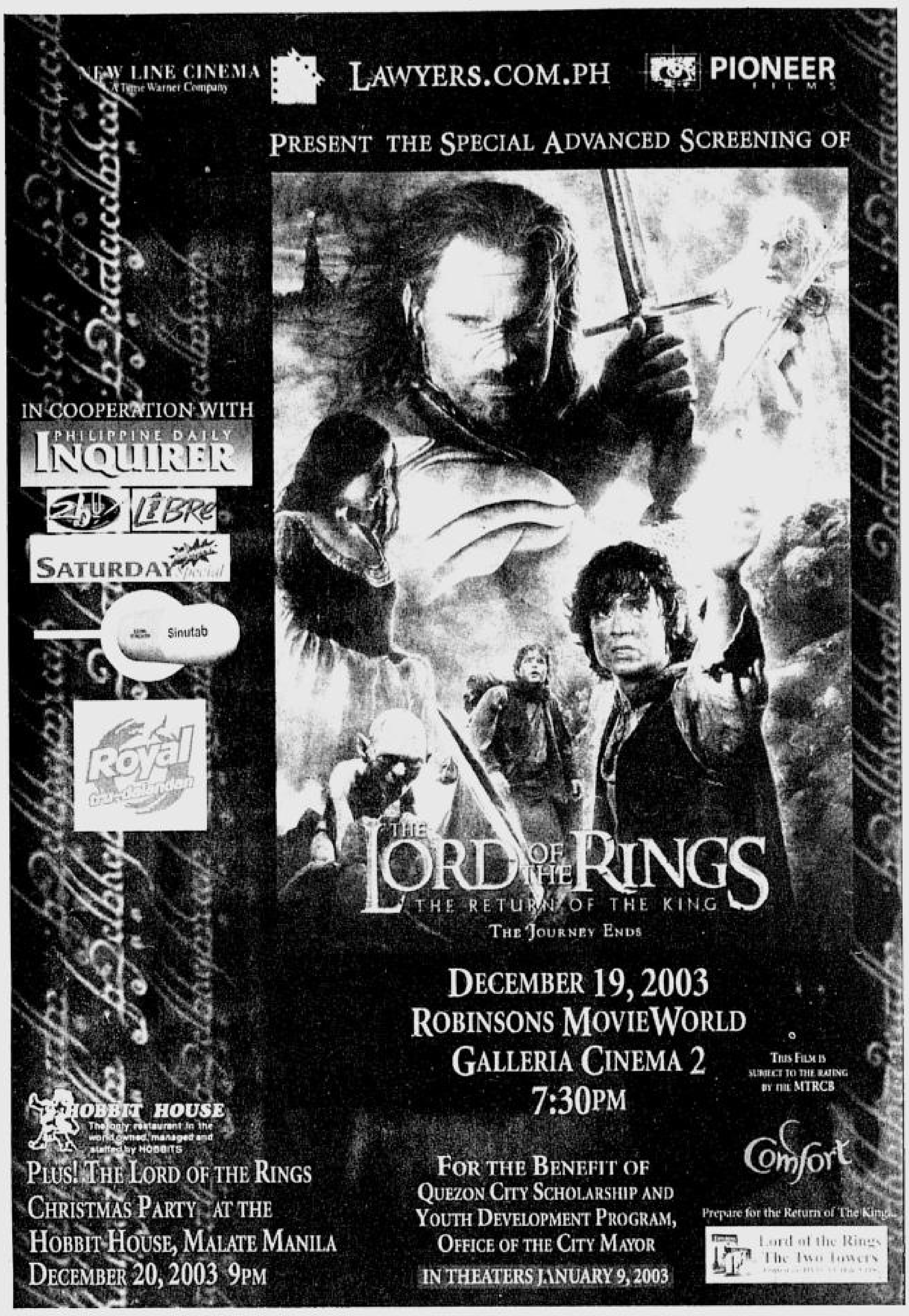
# Sure-fire ways toward a kookier Christmas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From page M1

fortunate conditions. To make them merrier and bright, I dressed as a Christmas fairy and entered with giant butterfly wings (which explains why I had wings at the book launch), a gift from my wedding coordinator friend, **Bangs Zaldivar**. Mesmerized, a little girl asked if I was truly a fairy and, in the same breath, asked for a cell phone. I just told her I was a fairy and not Santa Claus. **Ria Romero** of Joey was so happy to see me there like the event's mascot sprinkling magic dust on all.

**3. Plant a tree or give a potted plant.** We all have to do our share in cleaning up our polluted air. At the launch of Tagaytay Highlands' new development, Plantation Hills, I participated in a tree-planting session with 20 other ladies, including President GMA. Looking like a walking flower pot, I took more advantage of the photo op than the President. Maybe she should wear some of my costumes! With my floral pants by **Louie Claparols**, red daisy jacket by **Rajo Laurel** and petal headgear by **Rhett Eala**, I was in perfect flora attire as I planted a *molave* tree and harvested some vegetables.

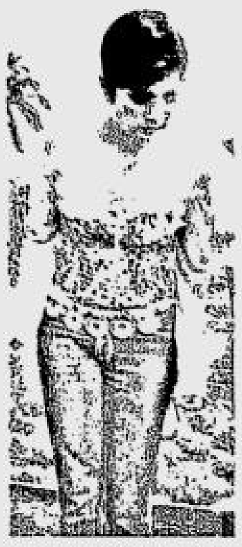
After all the Farmer John activities, I just drove up to Tagaytay Highlands for the weekend, really just in time to catch the Spirit of '67 Band perform at Highlands' China Palace. I couldn't relate to half the "golden oldie" songs but this band was so good that they got the whole crowd dancing the whole night. GMA also had the same itinerary and danced the night away with her hubby **Mike**. It was good to see our President get some R & R.

**4. Watch a concert, a Broadway musical or be Madonna for a night.** There are many concerts to attend this season, but the one so incredible was the Gary V XX-treme Concert at the Araneta Coliseum. High-energy Gary was

SURE/ M4

**AT THE PLANTATION** Hills inauguration. President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tessie Sy-Coson

**INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto planting a *molave* tree**


**PRETTY peasant girl Crispy Laurel at Plantation Hills**

**THE SEA Princess with Tagaytay Highlands girls**

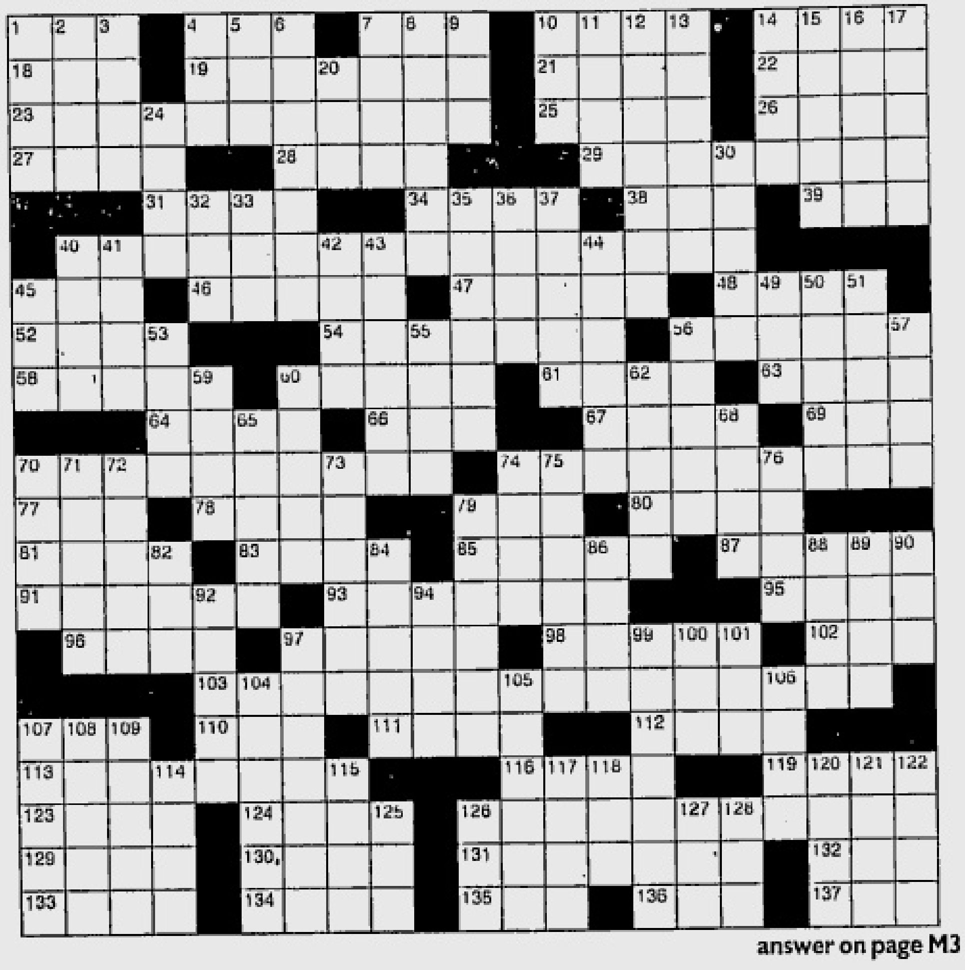
## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

### FILM CLIPS

ACROSS
1 Fleur-de- —
4 PD alert
7 Mil. rank
10 "Oh, woe!"
14 Oodles
18 Genesis vessel
19 African capital
21 Leaf part
22 Blind as —
23 H. Hunter film
25 Actress Thompson
26 Post-it message
27 Poker stake
28 Coop crowd
29 A. Pacino film
31 Barcelona bull
34 "Que —?"
38 — tai
39 Weaken
40 A. Sim film
45 System starter
46 Henry of "On Golden Pond"
47 Taken for granted
48 Rooster
52 Savoir-faire
54 Tropical rodents
56 Vaudeville's Tucker
58 Russell of "Gladiator"
60 Reads quickly
61 A roaring success?
63 Ankara native
64 Atahualpa, for one
66 Tolkien creature
67 High spirits
69 Caviar
70 C. Grant film
74 G. Swanson film
77 Deciduous tree
78 Oscar — Renta
79 Put on
80 Sea eagle
81 Cabbage concoction
83 Legend
85 Actor Quinn
87 Eye opener?
91 King's quarters
93 Piano parts
95 Saucony competitor
96 Bill of fare
97 Jazzman Chick
98 Make amends
102 Little devil
103 S. Connery film
107 Health club
110 "Fee, Fi, Fo, — . . ."
111 Construct
112 Follow closely
113 G. Lollobrigida film
116 West. alliance
119 Orient
123 Spare parts?
124 Satyr's relative
126 B. Hope film
129 On the briny
130 Prod
131 Relevant
132 Roy or Reiner
133 Neighbor of Bolivia
134 For fear that
135 — -la-la
136 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
137 Fluffy female

DOWN
1 Zhivago's love
2 OPEC member
3 "SNL" bit
4 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
5 Critic's god?
6 Wild sheep
7 Podiatric problem
8 San Luis —, CA
9 Columnist Smith
10 Jarreau and Jolson
11 Burden
12 Belly
13 Steven of "Exit Wounds"
14 Buddhist monk
15 Accepts authority
16 Florida city
17 "Bristol —" ('61 hit)
20 — Dawn Chong
24 Peterson of "Providence"
30 "Saturday Night Fever" setting
32 In error
33 Milne creature
35 Eminent
36 Agitated state
37 Motrin alternative
40 Trauma aftermath
41 James of "Murder by Death"
42 Pierre's st.
43 More guarded
44 Quit
45 Catchall abbr.
49 Go (for)
50 Rude person
51 Ballet company
53 Bit of kindling
55 Word form for "all"
56 Look like Hook?
57 Got by (with "out")
59 Oklahoma city
60 Foray
62 Mary-Kate or Ashley
65 — brulee
68 Italian rumbler
70 Door hardware
71 Cairo creed
72 Sedimentary stuff
73 Comprehend
74 Peau de —
75 Open the curtains
76 Composer Bartok
79 Patterned fabric
82 Pale
84 — -scarum
86 Vino center
88 Tel —
89 Frost
90 AAA handout
92 Puts the bracelets on
94 — Verde National Park
97 Liken
99 Footstool
100 — Trang, Vietnam
101 Actor Wallach
104 Plaintive
105 Provide
106 Pat on the buns?
107 Remnant
108 Composure
109 Jewelry material
114 Son of Rebekah
115 Yanks
117 Gillette product
118 Male manx
120 Farm measure
121 Flat-bottomed boat
122 Shakespearean infinitive
125 Volleyball divider
126 Mil. group
127 Waugh's "The Loved —"
128 Silly Skelton



answer on page M3

# Cebu consuls hold fundraiser

## CEBU CEBU

*Jaime Picornell*

THE CEBU chapter of the Consular Corps of the Philippines held its annual fundraiser at the Europa Restaurant on Ramos street.

Physically handicapped children are the special concern of the organization. This year their efforts were directed at providing a prosthetic arm for a young girl who was in an accident. It will be a great gift when she graduates from the Cebu Normal University.

The occasion was a valedictory for outgoing chair **Enrique Benedicto**, honorary consul of Belgium, who served for three terms. He thanked everyone for attending the event, and happily presented the incumbent vice chair, **Jose Sala**, honorary consul of Sweden, as his successor. Sala was elected unanimously the day before.

**Moya Jackson**, honorary consul of the United Kingdom, stays as secretary, a position she held since the group was formed in 1999. She acknowledged the presence of **Arcadio Alegrado**, honorary consul general of Austria, who was the organization's first chair in Cebu. He was accompanied by his lovely wife **Marle Montalban Alegrado** and their daughter **Julie A. Vergara**, honorary vice consul of Austria, who was escorted by her husband **Vic Vergara**.

### String quartet

The evening started with a petit concert by the String Quartet from the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP). Conductor professor **Jeffrey Solares** took violin I for this occasion. The others were the best soloists in the PPP—**Sarah Maria Gonzalez**, violin II ; **Gerry Varona**, viola; and **Gerry Gonzalez**, cello.

The concert opened with the "Salzburg Concerto" by **Mozart**, followed by **Nicanor Abelardo**'s "Cavatina."

Everyone was silent during the Haydn Serenade, which Jeffrey played solo on the violin, with the others providing the perfectly timed pizziccatto.

What came next was even more applauded—the "allegro" movement from Jeffrey's composition "Divertimento in G Major," which he wrote some years ago for the birthday of **Ingrid Sala Santamaria**, the PPP's fountain of inspiration. The finale was "Hating Gabi" by **Antonio Molina**.

It was just a little after 8 p.m. when the quartet stopped playing and the waiters in black tux served a gourmet menu very well coordinated by **Vivina Chiu Yrastorza**, officer-in-charge of the Swiss Consulate in Cebu.

There was salmon on a bed of lettuce, followed by lobster bisque. The main course was a choice between North American tenderloin (really tender, never mind the redundancy) and stewed turkey. Diners specified dark or white meat, and were obliged.

Dessert was the to-die-for Tartufo, a ball of chocolate in a ball of ice cream covered with a thick chocolate crust. **Joel Lee** makes it for special occasions. He learned how to make it in Verona (Italy) where he studied all about printing.

But beautiful music continued throughout the dinner with the PPP quartet breaking up into duets or trios to play light classics, familiar tunes and Broadway melodies. At the end of the evening, as guests left, Enrique and **Helena Benedicto** reminded them about Philosophy. That would be two days later, on Juana Osmeña street.

### Lifestyle studio

Philosophy is defined in various ways. One definition says it is an attitude of an individual or a group. For Enrique and Helena's daughter, **Enrilen Joy Benedicto**, Philosophy is a lifestyle studio that's a one-stop shop for kitchens, closets, furniture, wall coverings, decor and accessories and, most important of all, Andersen doors and windows.

Philosophy has been at its current location for two years now, but the occasion was special as it officially launched Andersen in Cebu. The company's fame in the United States for shutting out noise is backed by 100 years of expertise.

Enrilen Joy was the perfect hostess, steering groups of prominent guests through the various plush interiors and on to the doors and windows sector where **Mike Brown** was happy to explain and demonstrate what Andersen did.

### January wedding

Invitations are out for the wedding of **Xacah Alessandra Keiner** to **Winglip Anthony Chang** at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 2, the Redemptorist Parish. She is the daughter of **John** and **Julie Kiener**; he is the son of **Winglip Sr.** and **Pinky Chang.**

The reception will be at the Cebu Grand Convention Center grand hall, with dinner served at 7 p.m. Before that there will be cocktails and *hors d'ouvres* at the Grand Majestic in the center's ground floor. Both venues are the concern of the Chang family .

Pink Flora will take care of the décor in the church and reception, under the direction of **Teresing Mendezona**. Xacah and Anthony are being fêted with many parties this joyous season.

One will be held on Dec. 30, right after the wedding rehearsal, at the penthouse of **Boboy** and **Irma Atillo**'s F3 building in Mactan.

**CONSUL Enrique Benedicto and Myra Gonzalez Osmeña**

**CEBU SEC director Merle Padilla Cunanan, Rosario de Veyra Utzurrum and Helena T. Benedicto listen to Mike Brown explain the benefits of Andersen doors and windows.**

**ENRILEN Joy Benedicto with Gavin Sanson Bagares and Mr. and Ms Jose Maria Veloso**

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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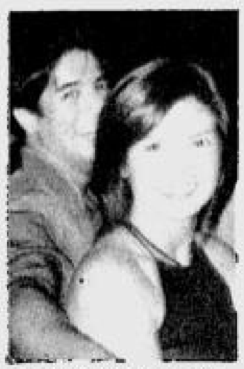
**SHOW BIZ** *It* couple. Aga Muhlach and pretty wife Charlene

**FUNNY** lady Nanette Inventor and JM Rodriguez

**GORGEOUS** show-biz faces. Donita Rose and Ruffa Gutierrez

**MUSICAL** mom Angeli Valenciano and talented daughter Kiana

**OUTDOORSY** couple Jeena and Ernie Lopez

**NEW** friends. Visiting artist G Tongi and Kitty Jacinto

**ENJOYING** the musical. Liezl and Albert Martinez

**ORIENTAL** couple Janine and Teddy Dario

**GORGEOUS** couple Bianca Araneta and Juan Elizalde

# Sure-fire ways toward a kookier Christmas

**AT THE ASSUMPTION** cookbook launch. Sister Luz, President Macapagal, Judy Roxas and editor Marivic Limcaoco

**MADONNA** in black and white. Rosanna Escudero and Cecile Ysmael

**INQUIRER**'s corporate relations manager Celine Madamba with Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos

V Bar guests Rachel Soriano and Francisco Delgado

From page M2

almost outshone by his son, **Gabriel**, who opened the 20th anniversary concert with a dance to put **Michael Jackson** to shame. The star-studded event (including **JayR**'s break dancing and **Jaya**'s gyrating) was bursting with talent and liveliness, which got me off my seat the whole night. My puffy organza ball skirt and blonde wig must have covered the people behind me. I just had to apologize before they had me kicked out. Gary's performance was unbelievable, he must have some extra battery charge pack on him. Even his daughter **Kiana**, who won the Awit Best Child Recording Artist, got in on the act. She wasn't at the concert but they played a video of her and Gary accompanied her singing from the stage. Indeed, God has blessed this musical family to the hilt.

## Hosting

After the concert, I jumped into my hosting stint at V Bar for the first of the Icon parties. With my Madonna-ed out, black Gaultier-meets-Chanel bustier outfit, I danced and lip-synched just one song and I was panting (Gary, I need training from you!). I have a long way to go before becoming a concert queen. So I just got the whole V Bar into Madonna mode and awarded hot model babe, **Bianca Valerio**, as the winner of the Wanna-Be-Madge Contest. She got a Boracay trip for two via Asian Spirit. Fashion guru **Inno Sotto** whispered he could not include me in his list, so lucky you, Bianca!

As an added show attraction, L'Oreal's **Leica Carpo** strutted into V in full Madonna mode, complete with her back-up dancers. She got everyone thumping with her cowboy hat and white fur overcoat. The fashion crowd came in full force and they are surely coming back for the next Icon one-of-a-kind party on Dec. 19. This time it will be a prom-soiree theme event inspired by **James Dean**. And since this paper just celebrated its 18th anniversary, I can wear the same **Joe Salazar** prom gown in the anniversary issue. Pretty in pink at 40!

Another show to catch is the Broadway musical "Urinetown." Excellently directed by **Bobby Garcia**, the plot is quite bizarre, but combined with romantic love, social injustice and bladder control, the musical is hilarious. Take your spouse, a date, a lover or significant other to the show at Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC. If you're feeling too miserable about this town, you'll surely get your spirits up and appreciate your life after watching their town.

**5. Try out an exotic cuisine and see where it takes you.** Instead of giving generic gifts, why not spend an evening with friends over dinner and split the tab? It's a much better way to show you were remembered this Christmas. It is more memorable, too.

May I suggest you try the new Vietnamese restaurant of **DJ Montano**, Annam. Located on Maria Orosa Street, the soulful area of Malate, the food is light, refreshing and yummy. At its formal opening late last month, hip guests came in modern Oriental fashion. Interesting hats were paraded. Of course, my hat was made of feather boas with a blue wig attached to it. Not very Vietnamese, but well, I haven't seen that movie "Indochine" in awhile and couldn't think of the right look.

All these gift ideas are meant to inspire creativity. After all, with everything so expensive and Christmas so commercialized, it is just too easy to hit the stores and get something wrapped. But if you truly care for someone, you need to think of a special twist in your gift, one that will make it unique and special. Because that is truly what makes a gift remembered—when the giver has truly spent time, that most expensive and rare commodity, in order to give someone something special.

*E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.*

**HYPER-BEAT** artists Gary V and JayR

**THE SEX** Bomb dancers, soon to be styled by me

**SPIRIT** of '67 lead singer Johnny Velasquez

**CONGRESS'** First Lady Gina de Venecia at the book launch

**"POP star"** Leica Carpo as Madonna in V Bar

**ANONYMOUS** couple Ricco and Tina Ocampo

**HATS** on you! Maricar Lim and Dina Devriar

**BEAUTIES** at Annam. Samantha Brandon and Lilo Gutierrez

**ANDY** Vasquez-Prada, best-dressed Maricho Jacinto and Ferdi Salvador

**MADONNA** judges Annette Coronel, Romina Urra-Gonzalez, überfashion designer Inno Sotto and celeb fotog Raymund Isaac

**SEA** Princess and PMAP friends Rissa Mananquil, Bianca Valerio, Phoemela Baranda and Raya Mananquil

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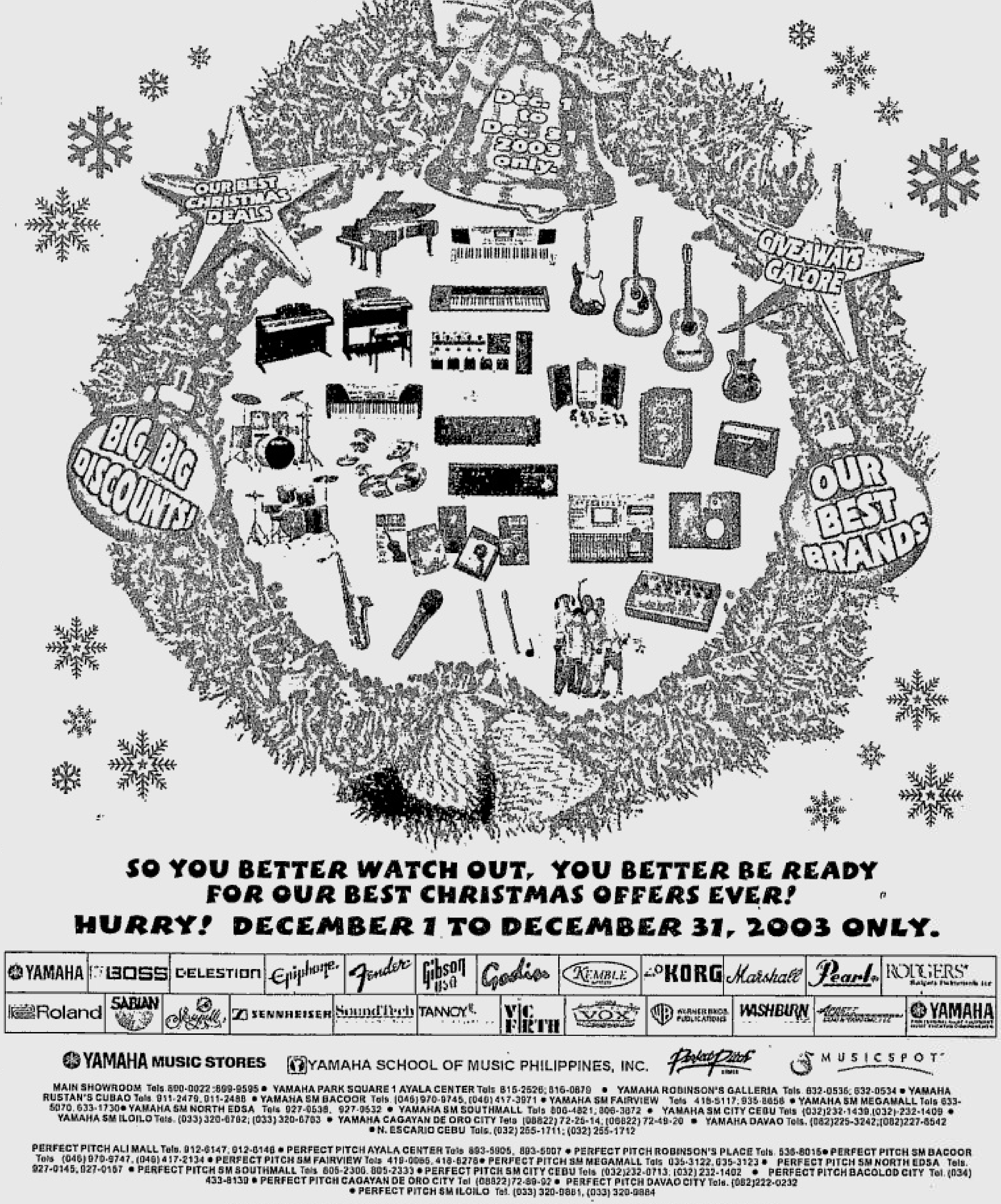

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- ➢ graduate of any 4-year business course
- ➢ with at least 2 years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions
- ➢ familiar with banking & operations & Central Bank procedures

### Certified Public Accountant

**• Manager • Officer • Supervisor**

- ➢ with at least 2 years work experience in all accounting operations in the same capacity

### Advertising & Promotion Coordinator

- ➢ graduate of any 4-year business course
- ➢ with at least 1 to 2 years experience in advertising
- ➢ must be creative and with good fashion sense
- ➢ good verbal and written communication skills

### Engineer

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- ➢ preferably licensed
- ➢ with at least 1 year work experience in construction project or mall operations is an advantage

### Design Officer

- ➢ graduate of Architecture; preferably licensed
- ➢ knowledgeable in AutoCADD application

### Display Officer

- ➢ graduate of Fine Arts, or any 4-year related course
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- ➢ computer literate (Adobe photoshop, Coreldraw, Printshop)

### Training Officer/Trainer

- ➢ graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course
- ➢ with at least 2 years related work experience
- ➢ knowledgeable in the conduct of training needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training programs and activities related to behavioral and skills of employees

### Nurse

- ➢ Licensed nurse
- ➢ with at least 2 years experience in medical establishment or as Company Nurse

### Computer Operator/ Technician

- ➢ graduate of Computer Science / Engineering
- ➢ preferably with experience in the repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash registers

## SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

### Office Assistant

**• Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service •**

- ➢ graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy or Computer Science
- ➢ Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hourse

## OPERATIONS GROUP

### Building Administration Manager

- ➢ graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- ➢ with at least 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity
- ➢ able to lead group and prioritize work load to meet deadlines

### Customer Service Manager/ Supervisor

- ➢ graduate of any 4 year business course
- ➢ with pleasing personality and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively
- ➢ with at least 1 to 2 years experience in customer service

### Selling Manager/ Supervisor

- ➢ graduate of any 4-year business course
- ➢ with at least 1 to 2 years experience in retail operation, food chain or in sales in the same capacity
- ➢ personable and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

### Counter & Checking Manager/ Supervisor

- ➢ graduate of any 4-year business course
- ➢ with at least 1 year experience in credit card transaction in the same capacity
- ➢ flexible and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

### Warehouse Manager/ Supervisor

- ➢ graduate of any 4-year business course
- ➢ with intensive experience in warehousing and other related functions preferably in retail business
- ➢ able to lead and motivate staff and foster a team working environment

### Customer Relations Service Manager/Supervisor

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- ➢ Flexible to different work assignment and willing to be assigned in provincial branches
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- ➢ with at least 1 year related work experience

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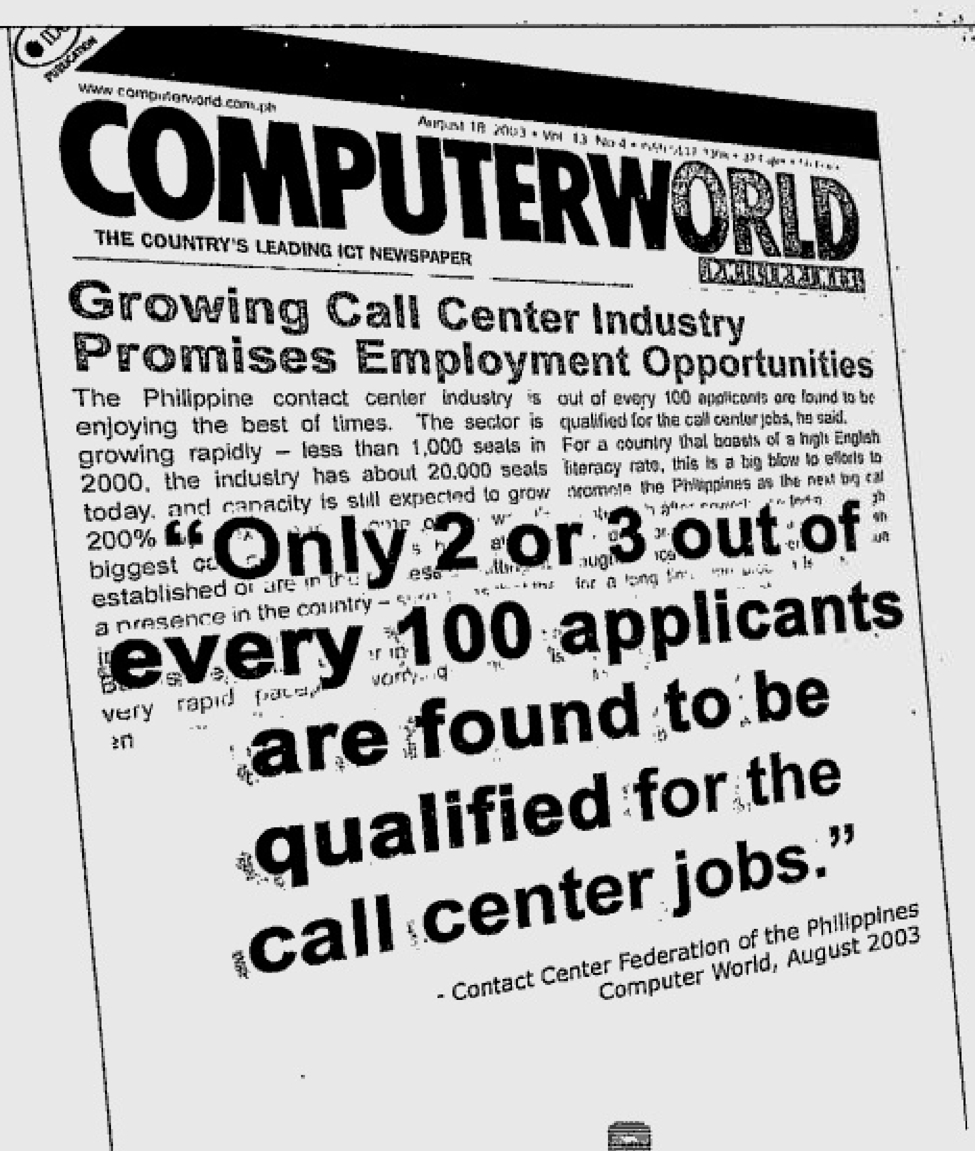
HR Associates, Assistants, Officers
IT Manager
PABX Administrator

31/F Discovery Center 25 ADB Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
JOBSHOTLINE: 638.9440 loc. 1222
recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com

**OPEN HOUSE:**

Mondays - Fridays, 9:00 AM 7:00 PM
Walk-ins will be immediately interviewed


www.computerworld.com.ph

August 18 2003 • Vol. 13 No 4

# COMPUTERWORLD

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING ICT NEWSPAPER

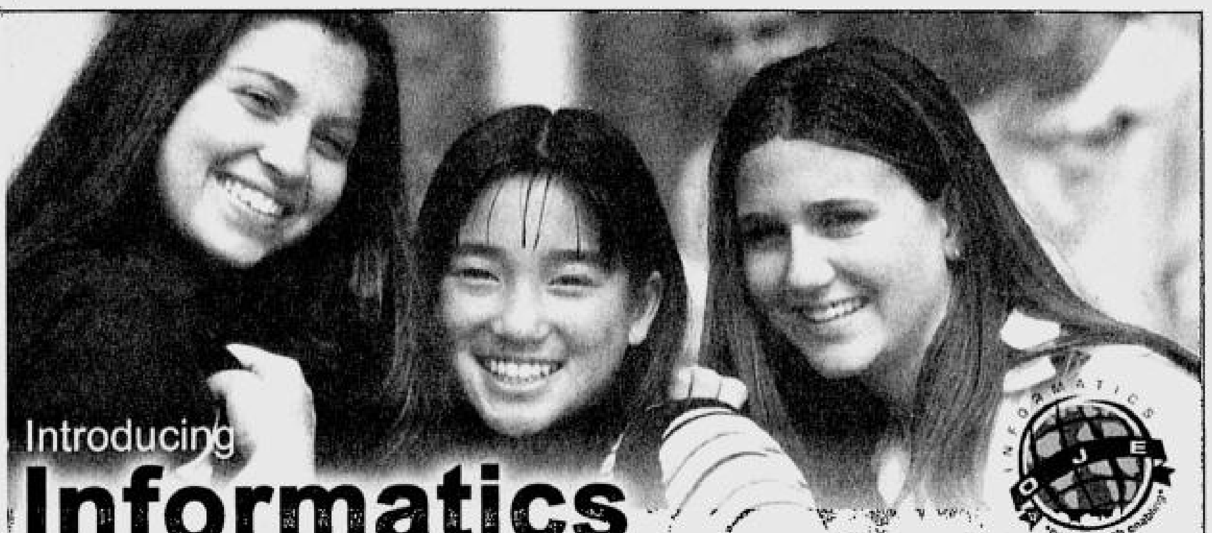
## Growing Call Center Industry Promises Employment Opportunities

The Philippine contact center industry is enjoying the best of times. The sector is growing rapidly – less than 1,000 seats in 2000, the industry has about 20,000 seats today, and capacity is still expected to grow 200%

out of every 100 applicants are found to be qualified for the call center jobs, he said. For a country that boasts of a high English literacy rate, this is a big blow to efforts to promote the Philippines as the next big call

**"Only 2 or 3 out of every 100 applicants are found to be qualified for the call center jobs."**

- Contact Center Federation of the Philippines
Computer World, August 2003



Introducing

# Informatics Call Center Course

With more than 200 contact centers employing close to 32,000 Filipinos in the country, the Philippine Contact Center Industry is growing rapidly with an expected growth of 200% by next year. As the world's biggest call center operators have established presence in the country, more than 50,000 job openings every month are being offered to Filipinos.

The growing demand for more call center agents needs applicants that are already equipped with the communication and technical skills required. Get yourself prepared for that high-paying job through the Informatics Call Center Course.

Enroll now at Informatics and avail of the free assessment of your communication and technical skills.

| Informatics Call Center Course | |
|---|---|
| Module 1:<br>Comprehensive Communication Skills Training (3 days)<br>Dec. 19, 20 & 22, 2003 | P 3,750 |
| Module 2:<br>Call Center Technical Skills Training (3 days)<br>Jan. 5, 6 & 7, 2004 | P 3,750 |
| **Complete Course Package**<br>Special Introductory Offer | **P 7,500** |

Informatics is a Career Assistance Partner of the leading call center companies in the Philippines.

**INFORMATICS**

inquiry@informatics.com.ph · www.informatics.edu.ph

For more details, visit or call:

**Informatics Makati**
2F Security Bank Bldg., Ayala cor.
Herrera St., Makati City
893-4818 to 20

**Informatics SM Megamall**
5F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall,
Mandaluyong City
635-3608 to 11

**Informatics Ortigas**
St. Francis Square, Doña J. Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
634-3647 to 48

**Informatics UBelt**
1139 Laboda Center Bldg., España cor.
Adelina St., Sampaloc, Manila
313-0083 to 84

**Informatics Northgate**
Indo-China Drive, Northgate Cyberzone,
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
876-5134 to 37

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## PROMINENT FOREIGN BUSINESS ENTITY WILL SOON TO OPEN TRAVEL AGENCY IN MANILA – INVITING YOUNG AND DYNAMIC PROFESSIONALS TO OCCUPY THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

### TRAVEL CONSULTANTS (M/F)

- Young, energetic graduates with minimum of 3 years experience in international travel handling multinational corporate clients.
- Candidates must possess excellent communication skills, thorough knowledge of fares, ticketing and CRS preferably Galileo. Standard or advanced IATA diploma will be an advantage.

### SALES EXECUTIVES (M/F)

- Graduates with minimum of 3 years experience in selling travel related products and in account development and management. Basic understanding of fares and ticketing is preferred. Driver's license is a must.

### TELEPHONE OPERATOR CUM RECEPTIONISTS (F)

- Presentable female candidates having minimum of 2 years experience in handling PABX board.
- Must possess excellent communication skills.

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (F)

- Female graduate having minimum of 3 years experience in similar field. Must possess excellent communication, correspondence skills and advance level knowledge of Microsoft office applications.

**THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS!!!**

Please send C.V., clearly specifying as subject, the position applied with your contact number or e-mail address and attach whole body / passport size photo, copies of employment certificate and educational credentials @
admin_st@Emirates.net.ac

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## URGENT job opening

GUESS USA

*Our company is known worldwide for its high quality clothing & accessories. It has a team of dynamic individuals working together in a fast paced & continuously growing environment. We invite you to be a part of our team!*

### HRD MANAGER

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

*male/female, not over 40 years old
*preferably graduate of BS/AB Psychology, Behavioral Science
*related work experience in a managerial capacity
*exposure in all aspects of HR (Recruitment, Training, Compensation & Benefits & Labor Relations)
*experience in a labor-intensive organization an advantage
*dynamic, results-oriented, very good interpersonal skills

**Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumes and 2 x 2 picture to:**

THE HRD MANAGER
*150 DII Bldg., San Vicente Rd., Brgy. San Vicente*
*San Pedro, Laguna*
*4023*
*Tel. No. 8086062(d.l.) or 8086017 to 56 Local 104*

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UBX 29 & digital!

## U-BIX CORPORATION

*The country's leading office systems provider announces its job openings nationwide...*

Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Bacolod • Iloilo • Angeles • General Santos • Subic • Batangas • Sta Rosa • CEPZA • Naga • Dumaguete

### BRANCH MANAGERS

For Naga, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos

Will be responsible for the overall operations of the branch; Sales, marketing, credit and collection, etc.

- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business course from a reputable school
- With at least five years experience in selling office machines and equipment, two years of which is in managerial capacity
- Knowledge in sales planning activities is required; priority will be given to those with brand management exposure
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- Male/Female, 28-35 years old
- Preferably resident of Naga, Cagayan de Oro or General Santos

### ASST. MARKETING MANAGER

Will be responsible for the implementation of Marketing strategies and projects

- Graduate of Marketing or Advertising from a reputable school
- With at least 2 years experience in the same capacity
- Male/Female not more than 27 years old
- Must be artistic and creative with excellent communication and leadership skills

### SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

FOR COPIERS

For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, La Union, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos, Tacloban, Butuan, Zamboanga

Will be responsible for promoting and selling Digital copiers and printers

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience in selling office machines and equipment; a good working knowledge in computer operation, applications and networking are major advantages
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

### JUNIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

FOR COPIERS

For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, La Union, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos, Tacloban, Butuan, Zamboanga

- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school; Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Determined to pursue a career in sales
- Male/Female not more than 25 years old

### DEALER COORDINATORS

FOR EPSON PRINTERS

For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience coordinating with dealers
- Hardworking and self-motivated
- Willing to travel and work long hours
- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old

### ADMIN. ASSISTANTS

(For La Union, Zamboanga, Tacloban)

- BS Accountancy graduate
- With one year experience in administrative functions
- Must be proficient in computer applications
- Must be responsible and can work for long hours
- Female, not more than 28 years old
- Preferably resident of La Union, Zamboanga or Tacloban

### SERVICE ENGINEERS

(For La Union, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Butuan)

- Graduate in any of the following fields: BS Electrical Engineering, BS Electronic Communication Engineering and BS Computer Engineering
- Must have the dedication and competence for intensive training
- Male, not more than 25 years old
- Preferably resident of La Union, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan or Tacloban

### ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting graduate, CPA an advantage
- With at least one year working experience
- Must be analytical and keen to details
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old
- Willing to work in Sucat, Paranaque City or Makati City

Competitive compensation, high commission and a rewarding professional career await successful candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resume with photo to:

*Recruitment & Training Group*
**U-BIX CORPORATION**
1331 Angono St., Makati City
E-mail Address: hrd@ubix.com.ph

Konica EPSON RISO okamura

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# LAWYERS

WITH 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION AND GOOD WRITING SKILLS NEEDED BY LAW FIRM BASED AT THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE IN ORTIGAS. GUARANTEED MINIMUM YEARLY INCOME P270,000.

**Call Joyce 6346487 to 89 for Appointment.**

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★JOB OPENING★

### OFFICE STAFF & MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Male/Female, Single/Married. College graduate of any course.
Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.
Hiring will be on Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

APPLY AT:
Suite 808, West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
(Back of Megamall near San Miguel Bldg.)
Note: 1st 10 qualified will start immediately.
Look for Mr. Isidro for interview
*1st come-1st served basis*
"attach this ad to your resumé"

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We need

### 3D/CAD Modellers/Renderers

with experience in architectural visualizations.
Part time and full time positions available.

send your resumé with photo to:
jobs@dna.com.ph
or call 7220692 for details.

# COCOLIFE

A UCPB GROUP COMPANY

A member of the UCPB Group of companies, one of the largest conglomerates in the country today, we comprise the Group's Insurance arm and offer a complete range of insurance and protection services. Belonging to the top ten companies in the insurance industry, we boast of an expanding network of Area Offices and over 80 fully computerized branches nationwide.

We are looking for dynamic, career-oriented, and quality-driven individuals who want to join our team as:

## CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old;
- ✓ BS Nursing, Physical Therapy, Medical
- ✓ Technology graduate;
- ✓ Good Communication Skills;
- ✓ Customer service oriented;
- ✓ Pleasing personality;
- ✓ Computer literate.

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old;
- ✓ Graduate of any Business Course;
- ✓ Good Communication Skills;
- ✓ Customer Service Oriented;
- ✓ Pleasing Personality;
- ✓ Computer Literate.

## ACTUARIAL ANALYST / TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old;
- ✓ BS Mathematics, Statistics, Applied Math
- ✓ graduate; (UP, UST, De la Salle);
- ✓ Good Communication Skills;
- ✓ Customer service oriented;
- ✓ Pleasing personality;
- ✓ Computer literate.

We offer competitive compensation and benefits package that includes an annual pay of as much as 16 months, rice subsidy, financial, housing and car loans at low interest rates, medical and HMO benefits, retirement benefit of as much as two months' gross salary for every year of service, and other special performance incentives.

Applicants may submit or mail their Comprehensive Resume,
Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture to:

Cathy B. Solano
3F Cocolife Bldg.
6774 Ayala Ave., Makati
Tel. no. 8419530

Or e-mail to:
cathy_solano@cocolife.com

**Previous applicants need not to apply.**

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# HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

A multinational electronics company with several subsidiaries all over the world and whose Philippine subsidiary belongs to the Top 20 Corporations in the Philippines is in need of a topnotch HR Manager for its plant operations in Canlubang, Laguna.

Reporting directly to the HR Department Director, the candidate will be mainly responsible for employee relations, payroll, documentation, statutory benefits functions, among others. She will closely supervise a group of Employee Relations personnel who are tasked to assist line Managers and Supervisors in handling day-to-day employee and disciplinary issues and concerns, as well as attend to the counseling needs of rank and file employees. She will sit in the Employee Relations Committee composed of employee representatives from different sections which tackles vital issues affecting labor on a regular basis. She will be on top of a group of payroll staff who prepares the payroll of all monthly-paid and daily-paid employees, except confidential employees, of this labor-intensive organization, coordinating closely with the payroll software provider for system problems and other concerns that may be encountered.

The preferred candidate is one who has at least 5 years similar experience preferably acquired from a medium to large-sized multinational labor-intensive corporation. Familiarity with labor laws and regulations is a must. Candidates should be female, college degree holder and between the ages of 28 and 35.

The values of fairness, honesty, integrity, creativity and resourcefulness are essential to the job. The successful candidate can look forward to opportunities for both professional and financial growth.

Mail resumés to P.O. Box 4037 MCPO, Makati City marked HRM-03-0001. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

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## An international joint venture company seeks:

## (a) ASSISTANT MANAGER
## (b) ACCOUNTANT

**Position (a)** is an important post for the holder is responsible for the overall running of the joint venture company, complying with all legal requirements, canvassing items for acquisition or investment, protecting and expanding the company's investment, supervising at least 5 staff, handling all human resources matter, sourcing further investment opportunities in the hotel sector for the company, and reporting to the expatriate VP. Candidates should have excellent academic and working record and several years of working experience in managing people in a professional setting. Possession of a vehicle is an advantage.

**Position (b)** is for a qualified accountant who shall handle bookkeeping, prepare financial statements and assist the Assistant Manager

Excellent remuneration will be provided to the right candidates. Please send detailed resumé, together with salary expected and a covering letter confirming your outstanding record to:

**Director of HR**
1801 Robinsons Summit Center
#6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City

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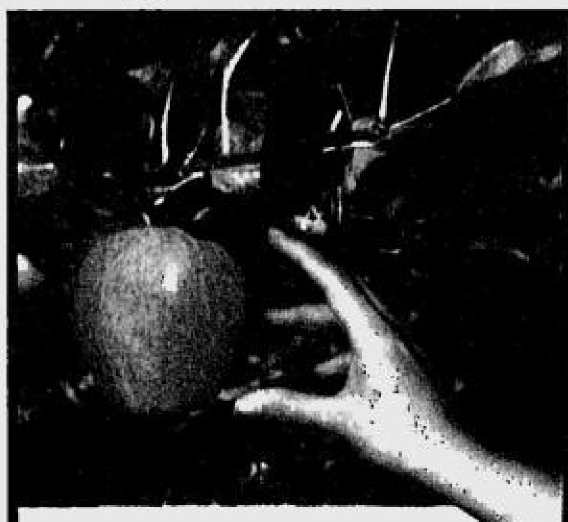

**Are you ready for a fresh start?**

**If you are passionate about quality, then you are ripe for the picking!**

**Quality for all is our Vision**
From what we offer our customers, to what drives us to perform, and even down to the kind of lives we want our employees to lead, SHOPWISE LIVES AND BREATHES QUALITY.

If you live by the same philosophy, then you are what we have been looking for. We are currently searching for talented individuals with a zest for people and can deliver quality in whatever they do.

## MERCHANDISE PLANNING & CONTROL MANAGER

**Overview of the Position:**
Provide leadership to ensure the development of merchandise plans, including core vendor and private label, support company goals and growth objectives. Supervise, coach and develop Managers of Planning to a high level of expertise and contribution.

**Key Accountabilities:**
SALES/MARGIN:
***Vendor Management***

- Support VP and Merchandise Managers with data analysis. Draw conclusions about opportunities and liabilities and follow through to execution.
- Manage and evaluate core vendor results monthly and works with merchants to identify opportunities and liabilities
- Maintains profiles of standard reports and continually ensures the merchants are maximizing the effectiveness of new tools.
- Produce store visit cards including all statistics and callouts.

**Strategic Planning:**

- Partners with VP and Merchandise Managers to develop Seasonal Core Vendor and Private Label targets that support corporate sales, margin and turnover objectives.
- Partners with VP and Merchandise Managers to develop long range Private Label seasonal targets. Evaluates division response in light of these plans.

***Skills Requirements:***

- ■ Bachelor's degree in Economics, Management or Accounting; preferably with MBA units/degree
- ■ With a minimum of 5 years experience; experience in Retailing a big plus
- ■ Must possess strong organizational and analytical skills
- ■ With excellent written and oral communication skills
- ■ With strong PC operation skills
- ■ With ability to be detail-oriented, flexible, self-motivated and able to motivate others

*Interested applicants may apply in person at:*

Human Resources Division
Rustan Supercenters, Inc.,
2nd Floor Rustan's Superstore Bldg.
Araneta Center Cubao, Quezon City

*or send their resume with 2X2 photo to the above address*
*or apply on-line at* ***jobs@shopwise.com.ph***

**It's time for you to wisen up!**
**Come join us at Shopwise.**

SHOPWISE Supercenter

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# Shakey's

## ...WE'RE HEATING UP!!!

**Shakey's is set to expand aggressively and is now looking for winners who can deliver!**

### STORE MANAGERS / ASST. MANAGERS

- Male or Female, 22-35 years old with at least 3 years experience as store manager in any of the major food chains.
- College Graduate, preferably with a degree in. either Hotel & Restaurant Management, BS Marketing, BS Food Nutrition or any other management courses.
- He/ She must be results-oriented with a strong desire to excel and possess very high personal standards.
- Must have a pleasing personality, good inter-personal and communication skills. He / She should have proven leadership and management skills.
- He/She must be very knowledgeable in Restaurant Operation, Financial planning and management (store P&L and budget preparation). Adept in LSM and "must" be very "Guest-Service" oriented.
- He/ She must be flexible, analytical and can deal with people from different levels of the organization. Computer Literacy a must.

### MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male / Female, 20 30 years old preferably with food service experience in any of the major foodchains. Management or supervisory experience a plus.
- College Graduate, preferably with a degree in either Hotel & Restaurant Management, BS Marketing, BS Food Nutrition or any other management courses.
- Must have a pleasing personality, good inter-personal and communication skills. Possess good leadership and management skills and has a strong desire to learn and grow
- Flexible, analytical and can deal with people from different levels of the organization. Computer literacy a definite advantage.

### STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

- Male / Female, 20 30 years old preferably with experience in any of the major foodchains. Management or supervisory experiance a plus.
- College Graduate, preferably with a degree in BS Marketing.
- Must have a pleasing personality, very good inter-personal skills and can communicate very well.
- Energetic, hardworking, creative and dynamic.
- Must be computer literate and can work flexible hours.

### WAREHOUSE & LOGISTICS MANAGER

- Male, 30-38 years old. Degree holder, preferably a graduate BS Industrial Engineering & Management.
- With extensive experience in warehousing and distribution management ideally from any of the major retail foodchains or from a multinational food manufacturing companies.
- Must have excellent communication & inter-personal skills, very good quantitative analysis skills & highly computer literate.
- Hard -working, self-driven, proven leadership skills, and possess high personal integrity.

### MATERIAL ENCODERS

- Female, 20 30 years old. Graduate of BS Accounting.
- Experience in logistics and warehousing encoding functions a plus.
- Computer literate, good quantitative and analytical skills.
- Flexible, hard-working and must have high personal integrity.

### TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

- Male, at least 30- 40 years old. Engineering Graduate preferably a Licensed Civil, Mechanical, Industrial or Electrical Engineer.
- Extensive experience (at least 2 years) in managing and leading construction and maintenance teams of multi-unit companies preferably with any of the leading foodchains.
- Must have very good working knowledge in the areas of store design & construction, preventive maintenance programs, equipment training and evaluation.
- Self-driven, analytical, hardworking, results-oriented, very detailed and organized, and with proven leadership and management skills.
- Must be computer literate with very good communication skills and have unquestionable integrity.

### QA/R&D ASSISTANT

- Male / Female, 21- 28 years old. Graduate of BS Food Technology, BS Nutrition or HRM.
- Must have relevant experience in product & raw material quality monitoring preferably from a major foodchain.
- Flexible, hardworking and computer literate.

### TRAINING MANAGER

- Male or Female, With at least five (5) years of hands-on experience in the organizational development and training in corporate setting.
- Adept in the formulation, designing, and implementation of training program and other related activities.
- Must possess a good command of English language, both oral & written skills.
- Young, personable, energetic and can deal with different types of people in the organization.
- Proficient in PC hardware and Microsoft Office Application is necessary.

*Applicants may send their resume at* ***AFP-RSBS Industrial Park C5 Km. 12 East Service Rd. Taguig.***
*or E-mail applications at "cpvillanueva@shakeyspizza.ph"*

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## JOB VACANCY

### COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST

- ☐ Must be a fine arts graduate
- ☐ Female at least 2 years experience in textile & garments industry
- ☐ Advance knowledge in adobe photoshop & corel draw
- ☐ Good in sport print and all over print concept
- ☐ Good fashion sense

### BOOKKEEPER

- ☐ Female, 24 to 30 years old
- ☐ Preferably a resident of Quezon City
- ☐ Accounting graduate
- ☐ Computer literate
- ☐ Two years experience in bookkeeping
- ☐ Knowledge in BIR/SSS/HDMF
- ☐ Prepare schedule of expenses
- ☐ Prepare check voucher and checks

**SBMF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, INC.**
Call: **9200940; 9249847**
(9:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Look for: Carina for
schedule of interview
Please bring resumé or past works

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**Our company, a dynamic organization, is looking for high-caliber professionals to join our ranks in this challenging field of Information Technology**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Marketing Communications Specialist** | -Male / Female, at least 23 to 26 years old<br>-Graduate of Business Management/Marketing/Advertising<br>-Must be familiar in print ad sponsorships<br>-Excellent inter-personal skills<br>-Presentable/aggressive and with pleasing personality<br>-Must be familiar with the IT industry in the Philippines |
| **Channel Sales Executive** | -Female, at least 23 to 27 years old<br>-Graduate of computer related course<br>-Goal-oriented, an achiever<br>-Capable of handling computer resellers<br>-Preferably at least 2 years experience in selling IT products<br>-Must be familiar with the IT industry in the Philippines |
| **Corporate Account Managers** | -Male or female, at least 23 to 27 years old<br>-Graduate of Business Studies/Management/Sales/ Marketing<br>-At least 2 year(s) of working experience in selling IT products<br>-Presentable/aggressive and with pleasing personality |
| **Accounting Officer** | -Female, at least 25 to 29 years old<br>-Graduate of a 4 year BS Accounting course<br>-At least one year experience in accounting related works<br>-Knowledge in using Accounting software (i.e. Quickbooks, etc.) is an advantage |

**Qualified applicants may apply personally with their resume and photo to 3/F Wah Phil Building 1321 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City. For more information, please call 721-9405 to 10**

# TeleTech Needs You!

Your Customer Management Partner

*We are looking for*

## Customer Service Representatives

*Do you have what it takes?*

Join our team! We are having an

**OPEN HOUSE WEEK**

**from December 15 - 19, 2003**
**10:00am to 1:00pm at**
**NET ONE Center**
**Bonifacio Global City,**
**Taguig, Metro Manila**

please bring a copy of your resume and one photo. We offer attractive renumeration commensurate with your experience

Photo and Design by Adrian Alalabo

**TeleTech, the world leader in the provision of call center solutions is currently undergoing an exciting period of growth in our offices within the Philippines. We're currently on the look out for new talent to work in our world class call centers who have strong command of the English language, are customer service focused, are analytical and solutions focused, are knowledgeable on PC architecture and applications, have excellent reasoning ability, and are able to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions and are able to deal with abstract and concrete variables. If you are keen to progress your career with a global company then we want to talk to you! Dealing with callers from all over the United States, you will use your technical support skills to assist customers with their queries. If you have these skills and are available to work night shift, then apply in person at our Open House Week.**

**visit us at www.teletech.com**

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# SYKES℠

**SYKES is one of the world's leading providers of end-to-end customer care management solutions – providing CRM solutions for many of the world's Fortune 500 companies. We have a 25-year history of working with the global leaders primarily within the information technology, communications and financial markets. Best of all, *we are also known to build fast track dynamic careers.***

**If you are a young, confident, self-motivated and customer-oriented individual – Then we have the job for you!**

**Qualified applicants need to join the company by December 22, 2003.**

## 90 CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVES – MORTGAGE AND FINANCE (CSR-MF)

- At least College Graduate in Accounting or Financial Management or any Business-related courses.
- Work experience in Finances, Mortgaging and/or Insurances an advantage.
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Excellent reading comprehension skills, problem solving and data analysis skills.
- Has the ability to absorb and utilize complex information.
- Has initiative, an eye for detail and excellent customer service skills.
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office applications, Internet savvy and email usage.
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills.
- Willing to work on night schedule and to be based in Makati City.

## 100 TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS (TSE)

- Graduate of any college course preferably Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any computer-related courses.
- Knowledge in WAN technologies such as CSU/DSU's, Frame relay with experience in network security including Radius and TACACS with extensive troubleshooting skills
- Cisco Certified Network•Administrator and knowledge with Redhat Linux and Macromedia products an advantage
- Works well under pressure to resolve issues, achieve goals and objectives
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills
- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks
- Willing to work on shifting and graveyard schedules

**As these are URGENT vacancies, qualified applicants are requested come in with their resumés on Monday or Tuesday (December 15 or 16) at 8:00am to 3:00pm at the 34th Flr, Burgundy Corporate Towers Bldg, Buendia Ave., Makati City. Please look for Joseph Stewart Syho.**

**Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company.**

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**France Asia International, Inc.**
4088 Yague St., Brgy Singkamas, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8974557 / 8909212 Fax: 8974667

**(2) BOOKKEEPERS**
Female, Familiar with Windows, Excel and related software

**(2) DOCUMENTATION CLERKS**
Female, Computer literate

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
Female, Communication skills, computer literate

**RECEPTIONIST**
Female, Pleasing personality, Communication skills

**IMMEDIATE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT**

**Directions:** Take tricycle at the corner of Pasong Tamo and Yague Streets beside the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building. Bring NBI, comprehensive resumé and relevant documents.

---

**A reputable Property Development Company**
is urgently in need of a

# LAWYER

with 3 to 5 years experience in litigation and corporate and property law practice. Competitive coompensation and benefits package await the qualified candidate.

Send your resumé, latest picture and transcript of records to
P.O. Box 1453 MCPO 1254 Makati City or
e-mail to roxaco@pworld.net.ph
**Only pre-qualified candidates will be called for interview.*

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Punongbayan & Araullo

Our client, **TVI Pacific Inc**, a well-established multinational company focused on mining exploration, development and acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region, **urgently** needs top-caliber candidates for:

# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS

***One each for the Metro Manila, Cebu, and Siocon (Zamboanga Del Norte) offices***

In the office of assignment, the successful candidate will exercise overall responsibility over the Company's accounting functions; preparation of financial analyses and forecasts; administrative and human resources functions; and implementation of adequate inventory, costs and other internal controls.
He or she will be involved closely in all key business decisions.

Qualifications of preferred candidates include:

- Certified Public Accountant
- at least 5 years of relevant experience in accounting and controllership
- hands-on experience in the use of accounting software packages
- trustworthiness; mature and responsible outlook
- excellent interpersonal and administrative abilities
- good oral and written communication skills
  *(For the Manila position, Mandarin-speaking candidates will be highly preferred. For the Cebu and Siocon positions, fluency in Cebuano is an advantage.)*

**AN ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AND EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE OFFERED TO THE RIGHT CANDIDATES.**

We invite you to bring your resumé to the HR & Communication Division of Punongbayan & Araullo, 19th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City; email it to Fred.V.Damian@pna.ph; or fax it to him at 886-5591. For inquiries, please call 886-5511 local 725. Visit us at http://www.punongbayan-araullo.com.

*Please include in your resumé your current and expected compensation.*

**Member of Grant Thornton International**

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**THE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**
a newly established environmental foundation managing an annual grants portfolio of approximately PhP 25 Million, is looking for its first

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

to act as Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation - directly supervising a lean Foundation staff, and indirectly, outsource contractors and agents; who will act as spokesperson for the Foundation and be directly accountable to the 9-member Board, made up of representatives of civil society and the governments of the US and RP.

**Minimum Qualifications Requirements Include:**

A practical knowledge or equivalent experience in environmental / natural resource conservation, development or a related field;

At least five years professional experience in environmental issues and demonstrated expertise in at least one of the Fund's six priority themes.

Management experience in community-oriented environment and development programs, and in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

Must have previous management experience and a working understanding of management principles;

Excellent communication skills (written, verbal and interpersonal);

Willingness to travel and undertake field visits;

Ability to work well with the Board of Trustees;

Sufficient energy and initiative to help establish and lead a nascent institution through its first years;

Literacy in functional computer software;

Experience of working with or managing ODA-funded programs an advantage

Please submit letter of application and resume to

PTFC Foundation c/o JML Tan
57 Kalayaan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail: **kkp@wwf.org.ph**
Deadline for submission is January 10, 2004.

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**RMSI**
**RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC.**

Is in immediate need of a top caliber

# Personnel and Administrative Manager

- Female, between 30-45 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- With at least five (5) years experience in all facets of Human Resource Management in a managerial capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated

DUE TO THE URGENCY OF THE NEED, QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

**RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC.**
Human Resource Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor, Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

**MCI**

MCI, one of the world's largest communications companies, offers Internet, data and voice services to over 22 million customers in 65 countries. So how did we get this way? We built our company around our most advanced technology—our staff, the most forward thinking work force in the business today. With an extensive range of IP, hosting, VPN and data communications, it's important to have the right people take us into the new e-conomy. Now we are looking for a few more to join us.

**ePERFORMAX**
CONTACT CENTERS

ePerformax, a multinational, award-winning contact center servicing both local and U.S. clients, is now offering exciting career opportunities. Through the ePerformax Training Center, we provide comprehensive courses to build your skills so you can excel in one of our many professional positions. We're proud to be a member of the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), a family of multinational companies with operations here in the Philippines for over 27 years.

## *You provide the desire, we provide the training!*

**CALL CENTER AGENT / DIRECTORY ASSOCIATE (PDI-CCADA)**
Responsible for the effective handling of inbound / outbound calls for U.S. clients; maintaining high productivity and quality performance levels. Must be proficient in computer applications (MS Word, Excel, and Internet Navigation), with typing skills of at least 35 wpm. Should be willing to undergo shifting schedules.

**RECRUITMENT MANAGER (PDI-RM)**
Responsible for the design and implementation of various recruitment strategies. With at least 4 years related work experience preferably from a customer-oriented firm or recruitment agency.

**TRAINING & QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER (PDI-TQAM)**
Responsible for organizing, coordinating, and overseeing all aspects of training and quality assurance. With at least 3 years related work experience from a large-scale call center. Experience in call center quality assurance functions such as defining problems, collecting data, establishing facts, drawing conclusions, and interpreting an extensive variety of technical instructions is a must.

**TRAFFIC ANALYST (PDI-TA)**
Responsible for analyzing and interpreting real-time call volume patterns and activities. With at least 2 years related work experience from a large-scale call center. Ability to recommend staffing adjustments to ensure product queues are properly handled is a must.

**HR ASSOCIATE / COMPANY NURSE (PDI-HRACN)**
Responsible for providing health care to employees and assisting in the processing of both Company-initiated and government-mandated health benefits. Must be a Registered Nurse with at least 2 years related work experience.

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Please include code of position you're applying for in email subject lines

**ePERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS CORP.**
2nd Floor BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
url: www.eperformax.com

**We entertain walk-in applicants**

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**WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**
**(For a prominent family)**

### FAMILY CHEF

Minimum 3 years experience in first class restaurant or five star hotel. Ability to cook Italian, French & vegetarian dishes preferred. Career advancement through supplementary cooking classes by foreign chefs for those who prove competent. Good working habits. Disciplined, clean & neat. Young sous-chefs will be ideal. Good salary. Stay-in.

### ASSISTANT COOKS

3 years working experience and must have basic knowledge in cooking. Must be organized, flexible, trainable and with good working habit. Stay-in. Good salary.

### HOUSEKEEPER

Must be high school graduate or college level. Must have sufficient knowledge in housekeeping, table setting & kitchen management. Must be responsible, honest, with good working habits & above all willing to learn a high standard of household management & maintenance. Preference wil be given to those who have worked in five star hotels & fine dining restaurants. Stay-in. Good salary.

### DRIVER

Able to drive luxury cars, diplomat level. Neat and clean, well mannered. High school graduate, responsible, honest. Can trouble shoot mechanical problems. With good knowledge of Metro Manila roads. Stay-in. We offer good salary and incentives.

If interested,
please text **0917-8500881**
or
mail resumé with photo to
**P.O. Box 1731 Manila**

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**FOCUS CARE CORPORATION**
**NOW HIRING**
**OUTBOUND TELEMARKETERS/ CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES**

- College level or grduate from a reputable school
- Able to express self with ease in English
- With excellent oral and listening skills
- With impressive voice quality, can project effectively and ethusiastically over the phone
- Confident and can readily influence clients given limited/short conversation time
- Successful sales experience is a plus
- Hardworking and determined to excel under minimum supervision
- Willing to work on rotating shifts (6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.)

A lucrative compensation scheme, incentives and bonuses commensurate to performance await qualified applicants.

**Apply personally with resumé at:**
11th Floor Unit A/B, Strata 2000, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

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*An International Management Company*

with strategic linkages to fund managers and banks in *European, U.S., Asian and emerging markets* whose core business is providing hands-on tailored advice on loan, investment, financial packaging, asset and fund management related services is currently on the look out for qualified:

## RESEARCHER

- *Female between 21 to 25 years old*
- *BS Food Technology degree from top university*
- *Excellent research, communication and written skills in English and Tagalog.*
- *Able and willing to do Field Research*
- *Preferably with experience in a Food Processing Company/Business*

Please forward your detailed curriculum vitaé, references and a recent 2x2 colored picture to:

Fax: (632) 687 21 16 local 114
E-mail: rengab1@hotmail.com

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**Telemarketing Representative/Person:**

Qualification: Fluent English speaking person - Telemarketing experience - Heavy phone sales - Computer literacy a must - College degree needed - Must be willing to work night shift - Excellent Incentive Program based on performance.

**Web Developer:**

Qualifications: 1 or more year web development/ design experience (PHT, PEARL, HTML, CGI) - Experienced with front page 2000 or above, dream weaver, etc. - Per project assignments or Part-time work.

**Please email resumé to careers@carlintech.com or fax to (OFFICE NO.) 8172585**

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**Southville International School and Colleges**
*internationally accredited by the*
*Western Association of Sciences and Colleges (WASC), USA*

***Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution committed to excellence!***

For schoolyear 2004-2005, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**
- College graduate with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality and must not be more than 30 years

**GS AND HS TEACHERS**
- Preferably BEE or BSE graduate
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must Business Math (Accounting/Economics), Social Studies World History, MANDARIN/CHINESE, Physical Education, English ESL, Reading Math, Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Filipino, Computer Education, Art, Values Education, Math (Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Calculus)
- Preferably with PRC(LET) License

**URGENT**

**MIS CONSULTANT**
- Has MS and PhD in any field of IT/Computer

**ACCOUNTING STAFF**
- Graduate of BS Accountancy

**PROMOTIONS/MARKETING SPECIALIST**
- Graduate of any communications/marketing course
- Has experience in brand management
- With pleasing personality and has excellent oral and written communication skills

**CAFETERIA COORDINATOR**
- Has experience in managing cafeteria or restaurant operations

**SCHOOL REGISTRAR**

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their curriculum vitaé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo to the
Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. 820-5702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

*The School of Future Leaders and Achievers. Right here. Right now.*

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TESDA ACCREDITED

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## WANTED

**■ DIETITIAN**
- *Licensed Nutritionist/Dietitian*
  *Male or Female, 25-30 years old*
  *With good interpersonal skills and pleasing personality*
  *With managerial background in handling restaurant*

**■ MEDICAL CLERKS**
- *Graduate of any B.S. Nursing, Midwife, Non-board passer is acceptable*
  *Male or Female, 23-30 years old*
  *Computer literate*

**■ REGISTERED PHARMACIST**
*Male or Female, single, 23-28 years old*

*Please mail your bio-data complete with your credentials & 2x2 picture at:*
**LAS PIÑAS DOCTORS HOSPITAL**
8009 J.I. Aguilar Ave., Pulanglupa 2, Las Piñas City

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment

## OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

### LIST OF VACANCIES

As of December 9, 2003

| SG | POSITION | NO. | OFFICE | QUALIFICATION STANDARDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | Director II | 1<br>1<br>1 | Administrative Department<br>Manpower Dev't. and Benefits Dept.<br>Legal Department | Bachelor's degree. 3 years of supervisory experience. CS Executive Eligibility (CSEE) or Career Executive Service (CES). |
| 25 | Attorney V | 1<br>1 | Legal Department<br>Legal Counseling and Rep. Div. | Bachelor of Laws. 3 years of relevant experience. 16 hours of relevant training. RA 1080 (BAR). |
| 25 | Overseas Worker Welfare Officer VI | 2 | Office of the Administrator | Masteral degree. 5 years in position/s involving management and supervision. 32 hours of training in management and supervision. CS Professional or second level eligibility. |
| 24 | Cashier V<br>Fiscal Controller V<br>Human Resource Mgt. Officer V<br>Information Officer V<br>Information Technology Officer III<br>Management and Audit Analyst V | 1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1 | Cash Department<br>Financial Management Department<br>Personnel Mgt. Division<br>Public Info. Division<br>OCW Databank and ID Operation Div.<br>Mgt. And Internal Control Division | Masteral degree. 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision. CS Professional or second level eligibility. |
| 24 | Overseas Worker Welfare Officer V | 1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1 | Office of the Administrator<br>Region I<br>Region III<br>Region VI<br>ARMM | Bachelor's degree. 4 yrs. of relevant experience. 24 hours of relevant training. Cs Professional or second level eligibility. |
| 22 | Cashier IV<br>Human Resource Mgt. Officer IV<br>Information Officer IV<br>Management and Audit Analyst IV<br>Overseas Worker Welfare Officer IV<br>Overseas Worker Welfare Officer IV<br>Project Development Officer IV<br>Project Development Officer IV<br>Project Development Officer IV<br>Project Development Officer IV<br>Project Development Officer IV<br>Records Officer IV | 1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1 | Cash Department<br>Personnel Mgt. Division<br>Public Info. Division<br>Mgt. And Internal Control Division<br>OOCD - Office of the Director<br>Social Benefits Division<br>Reintegration Program Department<br>Livelihood and Special Econ. Asst. Div.<br>CARAGA<br>Region V<br>Region VII<br>Records Mgt. Division | Bachelor's degree. 3 yrs. of relevant experience. 16 hours of relevant training. CS Professional or second level eligibility. |
| 19 | Information Technology Officer I | 1<br>1 | Membership & Registry Division<br>OCW Databank and ID Oper. Div. | Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. 2 years of relevant experience. 8 hrs. of relevant training. CS Professional or second level eligibility. |
| 18 | Accountant III | 1<br>1 | Accounting Division<br>CARAGA | Bachelor's degree in commerce major in Accounting. 2 yrs of relevant experience. 8 hrs of relevant training. RA 1080 (CPA). |
| 18 | Credit Officer III<br>Management and Audit Analyst III<br>Overseas Worker Welfare Officer III<br>Overseas Worker Welfare Officer III<br>Planning Officer III<br>Project Development Officer III<br>Project Development Officer III<br>Project Development Officer III<br>Remittance Officer<br>Supply Officer III | 1<br>1<br>8<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1 | Cash Department<br>Mgt. And Internal Control Division<br>Center Coordinating Corps<br>Social Benefits Division<br>Planning & Statistics Division<br>Manpower Dev't. and Benefits Dept.<br>Manpower Development Division<br>Region II<br>OOCC - Office of the Director<br>General Services & Prop. Mgt. Div. | Bachelor's degree. 2 yrs of relevant experience. 8 hours of relevant training. CS Professional or second level eligibility. |
| 15 | Accountant II | 1 | Accounting Division | Bachelor's degree in commerce major in Accounting. 1 year of relevant experience. 4 hours of relevant training. RA 1080 (CPA). |
| 15 | Computer Programmer II<br>Overseas Worker Welfare Officer II<br>Project Development Officer II | 1<br>2<br>1 | System Dev't. and Mgt. Division<br>Workers Assistance Division<br>Socio-Cultural Reinteg. & Spl. Asst. Div. | Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. 2 years of relevant experience. 4 hours of relevant training. CS Professional or second level eligibility. |

Please send updated Personal Data Sheet (CS FORM 212) and/or Comprehensive Resume with 2x2 recent picture, copy of Transcript of Records, certificate of relevant trainings, service record, proof of Career Service eligibility, Performance Evaluation with at least Very Satisfactory rating for 1st semester 2003 (for government employees only) to DOLE- HRDS at 5th floor, DOLE Building, Muralla St., Intramuros, Manila with tel. nos. 5273498, 5273426, 5273580; fax no. 5273568, and e-mail addresses: hrds@dole.gov.ph;hrds_dole@yahoo.com and hrds_dole@hotmail.com. Please submit requirements ***not later than December 29, 2003***. **Incomplete requirements will not be entertained.**

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## NOW HIRING!!!

## Gaming Assistants for Casino

- ✓ Female w/ pleasing personality
- ✓ At least 5'3" in height.
- ✓ Business degree holder w/ computer knowledge
- ✓ 3 years experience in marketing or customer service oriented companies.
- ✓ Excellent in oral & written English

If you are qualified w/ these requirements, you may apply at **RUNNING MATE INC.** Casino Department at # 816 Edsa Near Co. Kamias Road, Quezon City (Tel. Nos. 426-1358 / 426-74-45 and look for Pem)

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## Adarna House

a pioneer publisher of children's books and young adult fiction is looking for

## INDEPENDENT DEALERS

(for Regions I to VIII)

Pls. submit the following:

- ■ Letter of Intent
- ■ Comprehensive Resumé with (2) 2x2 ID pictures
- ■ NBI/Police Clearance
- ■ Company Profile
- ■ Photocopy of Business License
- ■ BIR Registration, DTI Permit, SEC Permit
- ■ Map of business address

Mail the above requirements **no later than December 16, 2003** to:

Dealership c/o Sales Department
Adarna House, Inc.
Room 201, JGS Bldg., 30 Sct. Tuazon St.,
Quezon City, Philippines 1103

Or fax to (02) 372-3548 local 115 or e-mail to adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph or akel111@hotmail.com.

For more information, call (02) 372-3548 local 104 and look for Rachel Sta. Ana.

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**A.V. Paule Const. Co., Inc.**
**is in need of**

### ELECTRICIANS, PLUMBERS & CARPENTERS

for possible assignment in MARILAO, BULACAN

**Requirements:**

- Not over 40 years old
- At least high school graduate
- With work experience
- Of good moral character

**Pls. report to:**

658 C. Palanca Sr. St., Quiapo, Manila
Tel. 735-7173 / 734-95-20
or at SM Marilao,
look for Engr. Ponce / Engr. Mueca

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## OTTO SHOES

**One of the leading shoe manufacturers and retailers is in need of:**

**STORE MANAGERS/STORE SUPERVISORS**
**(Alabang, Imus, Cavite & Bacoor)**
M/F, 24-30 years old * graduate of a 4-year Business/Management course * computer literate * with at least 3 years managerial/ supervisory experience in a retail store * must possess strong leadership, managerial and interpersonal skills * customer service-oriented, dedicated and hard-working * will be responsible for the overall management of the store to achieve sales target and maintain efficient and effective strore operations

**FASHION SHOE DESIGNER**
M/F 21-28 years old * preferably graduate of Fine Arts * experience is preferred, but not necessary * must possess creative ability, strong sense of style, and be up-to-date with fashion trends * computer knowledge is an advantage.

**CASHIER**
Female, at least 5'2", 20-25 year old, single * college level/ graduate * with experience in cashiering * have good eye-hand coordination ad be able to work accurately with figures and calculation * honest, tactful, friendly, and helpful to all customers

Interested parties may apply in person in business attire and bring comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 colored photo and transcript of records. You may also send your resumé to

**HRD-SELECTION AND HIRING**
#2 Don Juan St., Villa Cecilia Subd.,
Mambugan, Antipolo City
Tel. No. 646-7694 / 645-8037 / 646-8446
E-mail: jdlcaro6@yahoo.com

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## RRPayumo + Partners

ARCHITECTS

***PROJECT ARCHITECT**
LICENSED ARCHITECT AT LEAST 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING COORDINATION AND PROGRAMMING OF PROJECTS

***ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER**
LICENSED ARCHITECT AT LEAST 5 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE

***CAD ARCHITECT**
ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE AT LEAST 3 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE

***INTERIOR DESIGNER**
LICENSED INTERIOR DESIGNER WITH AT LEAST 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN DETAILING AND COORDINATION WORK

***SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST**
COLLEGE GRADUATE, PLEASING PERSONALITY

***ADMINISTRATIVE ARCHITECT**
LICENSED ARCHITECT AT LEAST 3 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE. INTERESTED IN DOING FIELD WORK AND COORDINATION OF VARIOUS TRADES AND ENGINEERING WORKS; FAMILIAR WITH BID DOCUMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

***DATA ENCODER**
COLLEGE GRADUATE AT LEAST 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE. PROFICIENT IN MICROSOFT WORD AND EXCEL

*BRING:* BIO DATA WITH 2" x 2" PICTURE, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS / DIPLOMA, SAMPLE OF WORK.

*APPLY PERSONALLY FROM 9:00 - 12:00 AM ONLY AT:*
583 BONI SERRANO AVE.
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY

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We need highly competent individuals for the position:

**ACCOUNTANT**
- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- Must be a CPA with computer background
- With at least 2 years relevant experience

**ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**
- 23-30 yrs. old, 2-3 years work experience, flexible
- Accounting graduate

Send resumé with picture or apply in person at:
#8 Andros St., Phase 4, Vista Verde Village, Cainta, Rizal

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## SILVERGREEN LEARNING CENTER, INC.

410 Don Raul Bldg., No. 77 Kamuning Road, Quezon City

**We are committed to producing world-class**

## CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS

**who are in big demand in the U.S.A.!!!**

***Requirements:***

1. Transcript of records (at least 72 units in college)
2. Birth Certificate (16 to 45 years of age)
3. 2 1x1 photos

**FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL:**

**426-9579 to 80**
**1:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

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### START YEAR 2004 WITH THESE JOBS!

We need to fill up the following positions for our project expansions beginning January, 2004:

| | |
|---|---|
| **1) CASHIERS**<br>**2) BARISTAS**<br>**3) STORE ATTENDANTS**<br>*Male or Female, between 20-25 years old College graduates of any 4-year course. Experience an advantage but not necessary.* | Dates & Days of Application:<br>Wednesdays and Thursdays only<br>9:00 AM - 4: 00 PM<br>Please look for Leah Andres or Ruszel Drequito |
| **4) DRIVEWAY ATTENDANTS**<br>*He should have finished a vocational course or has completed at least 1st year college.*<br>*Male, between 18-25 years old*<br>*Presentable, alert, and quick in learning* | Dates & Days of Application:<br>Mondays and Tuesdays only<br>9:00 AM - 4: 00 PM<br>Please look for Ruszel Drequito or Fonzi delos Santos |

Applicants are strictly reminded to bring ALL of the following documents. Without these, we cannot process your application!
1) Barangay or Police Clearance
2) Bio-data with 2x2 photo

**Please follow the application schedules as indicated above. We also advise all interested applicants to be properly dressed when you see us at:**

ATM-PAI, 1610 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City (beside RCBC Plaza); Tel. 8173315/8122654

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A company specializing in credit risk valuation is in search for

## CREDIT RISK ANALYSTS

- 3 years experience in banking, finance, and/or analytical work
- CFA and other certification are a major plus
- Educational background in business, e.g. economics, management, finance, accounting, marketing, etc.
- Excellent analytical skills
- Proficient in English and Filipino
- Notable skills in the use of computers, applications, and other analytical tools

Please send cover letter, resume w/ picture, and transcript of records to:
**Unit 700 Ortigas Bldg, Cor. Ortigas-Meralco Ave, Pasig City 1600**
**Fax: 6375001 Email: bf_recruit@yahoo.com**

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**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**

## DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

An international organization has an immediate need for a DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST who will be responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of activities in the areas of energy and environment. The activities include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; the use of clean fuels such as natural gas and renewable energy; power industry restructuring and privatization; increasing efficiencies in power generation, transmission and end use; capacity building of Philippine Government agencies responsible for carrying out the policy reform; maintaining and expanding forest cover to serve as carbon sinks; and, reduction of air pollution from the transportation sector. The incumbent of this position will be responsible for coordinating and providing administrative and management support for formulating and implementing a renewable energy plan, associated institutional strengthening of local government units and constituency building objectives, public-private sector alliances and conflict mediation in target communities.

Minimum educational requirements is completion of a Bachelor's degree relevant to development assistance such as public or business administration, economics, social or physical science, or management. Completion of post-graduate degree (MPA, MA or MBA) is highly desirable. From five (5) to seven (7) years of progressively responsible, professional level experience is expected with at least four (4) years of which should have been in development assistance or related work in a donor agency, host government or private sector organizations. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) is essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than December 19, 2003**, to:

**Human Resources Division**
**P.O. Box EA 423**
**1000 Ermita, Manila**

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*The Blue Mountains*

Salcedo Village's leading service-oriented and nature-inspired spa/salon is expanding. We are currently looking for dynamic professionals to take us to new heights.

1. **SPA MANAGER**
   Fantastic people skills, resourcefulness, willingness to learn, a healthy and well-maintained appearance and proper grooming, emotional/ intellectual maturity and discretion are but some of the traits we would expect of you. Previous spa/salon management highly desirable as is sales and marketing ability.
2. **FACIAL, SKIN &/OR BODY THERAPISTS / MASSEUSES**
   Must be discreet, soft-spoken, and diligent with finesse and a pleasing personality. At least 18 months experience in a professional spa/salon environment preferred.
3. **PART-TIME SPA SPECIALISTS**
   We would also be interested to talk to medical doctors, nutritionists, dieticians and other qualified professionals who would like to venture into the spa industry.

*Qualified applicants may mail or deliver their resumé (with current photo) to:*

**THE GENERAL MANAGER**
**Unit 103, Le Domaine Condominium**
**104 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati**
**Tel.: 813-5279**

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## BNC INGREDIENTS CORPORATION

BNC INGREDIENTS, an innovative and ethical distributor of world-class ingredients (for food, pharmaceutical, personal care/cosmetics) manufactured by reputable multinational companies from North America, Europe, and Asia, is looking for:

### 3 SALES EXECUTIVES

- Male/ Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Food Technology, Chemistry, or Chemical Engineering, graduates (the latter two must pass the board exam)
- Preferably graduates of UP, La Salle, or Ateneo
- Possess good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate

### 2 SALES SUPERVISORS

- Male/ Female, not more than 40 years of age
- With at least 5 years experience in sales
- Food Technology, Chemistry, or Chemical Engineering, graduates (the latter two must pass the board exam)
- Preferably graduates of UP, La Salle, or Ateneo
- Possess good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate

### 1 ACCOUNTANT

- Preferably female, not more than 30 years of age
- With at least 2 years of experience
- Accounting graduate of UP, La Salle, or Ateneo
- Must pass the board exam
- Possess good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**

Qualified and interested applicants may send their resumés (with recent 2x2 photos) to:

**BNC INGREDIENTS CORPORATION**
Tel. 845-4500 Fax: 845-2265
Email: bnc@pworld.net.ph

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Albergus

Albergus Management, Inc., a Foodservice Management Operator that specializes in Catering, Industrial/Institutional/Corporate Food Service Contracting and Manufacturing, needs highly qualified applicants for:

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of HRM, FS Management, Marketing of any related course from a reputable school
- Highly personable and has above average oral and written communication skills;
- With experience/exposure in banquet sales or any related field;
- Computer literate.

Interested applicants may mail or bring their resumé with 2x2 ID picture (recent), transcript of records, NBI and/of Police Clearance, Health Certificate, Letter of Recommendation, SSS, TIN & CTC on or before **December 27, 2003** at:

**Albergus Management, Inc.**
HR Office c/o Jenny Dakis
16-A Capitol Hills Road, Old Balara, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 931-4852; 931-4854
(From Monday-Saturday/9:00 AM - 4:00 PM only)

---

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**

## ACCOUNTANT-BOOKKEEPER

- Male or Female, 21-25 years old, Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from a very reputable school
- Must be self-motivated and hardworking
- Must be a team player
- Proficient in MS Windows Application and Accounting Software
- Must have at least two (2) years work related experience.

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resumé with contact telephone numbers/mobile phone, recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

The Country Manager
UNITELLER FILIPINO, INC.
1108 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email Address – fzr@uniteller.com
SEND AND RECEIVE MONEY *INSTANTLY*

WANTED

**ACCOUNTANT**

22-28 years old, with at least 3 yrs exp, computer literate

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

female, 22-28 yrs old, with admin exp., computer literate, proficient in oral and written English, pleasing personality, preferably resident of Parañaque.

send resumé and 2x2 picture to
No. 1 ACM Cpd., Sunrise St.
Ext., Concorde Vill., MIA Rd.,
Tambo, Parañaque.

---

# Where you find the best.

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

---

## Start A Global Career...

*In today's super competitive marketplace, executives around the world are searching for strategic solutions to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing business environment and stiff competition.*
*Staying ahead of competition requires the capability to quickly identify and adapt to strategically important trends.*
*One of which is the Contact Center – the fast-emerging central point between companies and customers.*
*Recognizing the Philippines as one of the best offshore destinations, a leading business solutions provider is inviting highly skilled individuals to explore career opportunities with them...*

### OPERATIONS DIVISION HEAD

- With at least 5 years experience in handling team leaders and contact center representatives
- Ability to function in a fast paced, sales driven environment

### HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION HEAD

- With at least 5 years relevant experience
- With extensive experience in all facets of human resources, specializing in employee and labor relations

### FINANCE DIVISION HEAD

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 5 years experience in General Accounting

### ACCOUNTS DIRECTOR (INBOUND/OUTBOUND)

- With at least 4 years experience in account management gained from the contact center industry
- Effective negotiations, coaching, mentoring and delegating skills

### WORK CAPACITY PLANNING MANAGER

- With skills on process management, sales and service provisioning
- Knowledgeable and preparing traffic studies in a contact center

### VOICE/DATA ENGINEERS

- Preferably with telecommunications background
- With strong problem solving and analysis skills
- Must be a licensed engineer

### PROGRAMMER

- With 4 years programming experience using the following languages: Visual Basic, SQL/PL and Oracle
- Experience with contact center applications and predictive dialers are a decided advantage

### CONTACT CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

- With excellent communication skills
- Customer-oriented; highly motivated and can work under pressure
- Willing to work on shifts and during holidays

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HEAD

- With at least 5 years of relevant work experience in systems development / maintenance or the computer center / network functions (AVAYA, CISCO Environment)

### QUALITY DIVISION HEAD

- With at least 5 years experience in quality assurance functions such as defining problems, collecting data, establishing facts, drawing valid conclusions and interpreting an extensive variety of technical instructions
- ISO experience is a plus

### TRAINING MANAGER

- Must have at least 2 years experience in a managerial capacity specializing in Training and Development or equivalent
- Solid understanding of training processes and practice

### PROJECT MANAGER

- Minimum of 2 years experience as a Project Manager gained from a contact center
- With excellent project management skills

### TEAM LEADERS

- With at least 6 months experience as a Team Leader gained from a contact center
- Effective management, coaching and mentoring skills

### SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

- Must have at least 2 years relevant experience in systems administration and configuration
- Experience in UNIX, Microsoft and other operating systems
- Appropriate certifications is a decided advantage

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

- Knowledgeable on PC hardware and software troubleshooting
- Has handled various operating systems
- With very good communication skills
- Willing to work on shift and during holidays

### ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- At least 2 years experience handling finance, general accounting and auditing functions
- With above-average communication skills

*Applicants may send their résumés to:*

**Diversified Technology Systems, Inc. (DTSI)**
**Human Resource and Organization Development Group**
**39/F PB Com Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

or e-mail them to chrod@dtsi.com.ph
*For more information, you may contact us at 757-5888 ext. 8904*
*or visit our website: www.dtsi.com.ph*

DTSI **Solutions That Move Global Enterprises**

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Rustan's

urgently needs ...

# FASHION CONSULTANT

- Male / Female, between 19-25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Strictly 5'4" in height for female and 5'6" for male
- Must have at least one (1) year work exposure in sales handling high-end brands, customer service and / or store operations
- Must have clear and fair complexion
- Must have good communication skills with no regional accent; can speak, write and converse in English fluently
- Must be smart, confident, pleasing and aggressive in selling
- Must have high fashion sense & taste

*Interested & qualified candidates may apply personally to:*
**Human Resources & Organizational Development Division**
**RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION**
G/F, El Mercasol Bldg., EDSA, Mandaluyong City

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# N.I. TEIJIN SHOJI CO., LTD.

A Japanese trading firm engaged in Cleanroom System and Consumables for Semicon-Industry is in search for a

## BUSINESS SERVICE ASSISTANT

to be responsible for Administrative & Business Monitor

**Qualifications:**

◆ Female, 22 to 28 years old and graduate of any four-year course
◆ Possesses excellent oral & written communication and interpersonal skills
◆ Knowledgeable in MS Office applications
◆ Highly-motivated, result-oriented and understands the demands of the job

Interested applicants may apply in person with comprehensive resumé & recent photo to:
18F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas Makati City

***"Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview"***

---

# WANTED

for Employment

## *JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT*

to handle record keeping and to produce various accounting reports for MIS purposes.

## *FINANCIAL COMPTROLLER*

to handle funds disbursement and other bank related transaction such as deposits, withdrawals, remittance, order payments and render timely reports on the same.

**Submit your detailed resumé at:**
**P.O. Box 1731 Manila**

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## URGENT!

### ACCOUNTING CLERK

Full-time, not more than 30 yrs. old, at least 2-3 yeares experience, BSA Graduate, Computer literate, experience using accounting software.

### CASHIER

Full-time, not more than 30 yrs. old, at least 1 year experience, resident of Makati preferred but not required

Ricco-Renzo Galleries, G/F LRI Business Plaza
210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City
Telefax: 898-2542 to 45

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ATTENTION
OLONGAPO RESIDENTS

A Manufacturing Plant in Subic Bay Free Port Zone is in need of

## ACCOUNTANT

with the following qualifications

- Female
- CPA
- Cost Accounting experience preferred
- 5 years work experience preferred
- Average scholastic record required
- Proficiency in Computer work required

Send Resumé and application letter to:

THE MANAGER
Bldg. 2016 Corregidor Hi-way Naval Magazine Area
Subic Bay Free Port Zone

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**PEOPLESUPPORT** is a U.S.-based outsourced provider that delivers world-class, multi-channel customer care solutions from mission-critical contact centers in the Philippines.

PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc. started in March 2000, and is regarded as one of the leading call centers in the country today with over 1,700 people in its workforce. Currently operating at the PhilamLife Tower, Robinson's Summit Center in Makati, and at the Asia Town IT Park in Cebu

PEOPLE**SUPPORT**®

# JOIN OUR TEAM!

## JOB OPENINGS

- **TECHNICAL SUPPORT eReps™**
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE eReps™**
- **TRAVEL eReps™**
- **SALES eReps™ (Inbound/Outbound)**
- **SPANISH SPEAKING eReps™**

**eReps™** are Customer Service Representatives who provide **CUSTOMER SERVICE** or **TECHNICAL SUPPORT** via phone, email, chat or fax on a 24 x 7 basis.

**GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS**

• Excellent ENGLISH communication skills • Strong CUSTOMER SERVICE skills • College graduate • Experience or keen interest in technology / troubleshooting • Values continuous learning, personal and professional development • Computer proficient and Internet savvy • Willing to work SHIFTS

APPLY THROUGH THE CAREERS PAGE AT **www.peoplesupport.com**

**SYSTEMS ACCOUNTANT**

BS Degree in accounting / finance, 3+ years of accounting and accounting systems experience, proficient with accounting and financial reporting systems, especially Epicor and FRx

**STAFF ACCOUNTANTS**

2+ years of general accounting, accounts payable management and reporting experience, knowledge in computerized accounting systems, CPA preferred

**PAYROLL ASSISTANTS**

1+ years experience in timekeeping / payroll function

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

3+ years experience in administrative work and top management assistance, should be pleasing, creative, resourceful and with good analytical skills

**SALES MANAGER**

5+ years experience in sales, marketing or business development, preferably in contact center sales; International work experience, specifically in dealing with U.S. companies and American executives

**SALES OFFICER**

2+ years telemarketing or sales experience, preferably in IT-enabled or technology-related service industries

**ACCOUNT MANAGER**

3+ years experience in Account Management, must have travel industry background (airline, travel agency, etc.)

**MANAGEMENT TRAINEES**

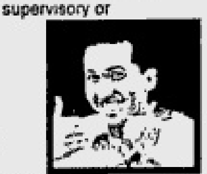
Management Trainees will be immersed in a broad range of call center functions in preparation for future leadership roles. Those with operations / account management experience preferred. Must have 2+ years work experience in a supervisory or management role.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
**(02) 755-26HR**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
**www.peoplesupport.com**

12-14F PhilamLife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
29-33F Robinson's Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
e-Office One, AsiaTown I.T. Park, Apas, Lahug, Cebu City

***Interested in these positions?***
**JUST EMAIL YOUR RESUMÉ TO:**
**manilajobs@peoplesupport.com**



**PEOPLESUPPORT IS AN INDUSTRY MOVER**
We are part of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) and a founding member of the Contact Federation Philippines Inc. (CFPI). In fact, the current Chairman for both organizations is none other than the President of PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc. - Bong Borja. These organizations give our company, as well as the entire contact center industry, one voice and one stand in ensuring that the Philippines becomes the outsourcing hub of the world. At present the whole contact center industry has provided jobs for thousands of Filipinos and we are not stopping there.

---

# WANTED

**▪REGISTERED NURSES**

– *Male or Female, 23 - 30 years old*
– *With good interpersonal skills and pleasing personality*

**▪NURSING AIDES**

– *Registered Midwife or graduate of Bachelor of Science in Nursing*
– *Female, 23-30 years old*

*Please mail your bio-data complete with your credentials & 2x2 picture at:*

**LAS PIÑAS DOCTORS HOSPITAL**
8009 J.I. Aguilar Ave., Pulanglupa 2, Las Piñas City

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## *GRAND HIRING!!!*

*Our north-American Advertising and marketing Company is in need of 120 People to fill in various positions for 2004 nationwide expansion.*

**20 MANAGEMENT TRAINEES**
**20 FIELD SUPERVISORS**
**20 MARKETING SPECIALIST**
**20 SALES EXECUTIVE/CONSULTANT**
**10 CUSTOMER SERVICE**
**30 MERCHANDISER/PROMODISER**

**EARN P300 – 800 A DAY with or without experience**

Basic training provided
If you are: Physically fit (18-30 years old male/female)
**Graduate / undergrad of any course; with pleasing personality**
**Apply in person and bring this ad / no fees to be collected.**

*5th Floor Olympic Bldg.*
*#65 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,*
*Palanan, Makati City*
*Tel # 844-8639/844-8641/42*
*Look for Jack*

*#158-160 Susano St., 6th Avenue*
*(near 5th Ave. LRT station)*
*Caloocan City*
*Tel # 367-2215/367-2221*
*Look for Faith*

ILLUSTRATION BY RONNIE ELEFANO

# How do you prepare for a difficult conversation?

**WORKING WOUNDED**
*Bob Rosner*

**DEAR WW: I had a run-in with a coworker last week and now I need to sit down with her to clear the air. We haven't gotten along for a while, so it's not going to be easy. Any advice?**

**Tough Call**

Your fax reminded me of a newspaper article I recently saw about a Hungarian couple who wanted to change places. I mean REALLY change places. So they checked into the Szekesfehervar Hospital and had dual sex change operations. According to all reports, the newly minted he and she are now enjoying life as each other's better half.

Now, that's quite a bit further than most of us are willing to go to see something from another person's viewpoint. But their story can remind us that we need to put energy into learning what's on another person's mind. The following strategies will help you clear the air by considering your opponent's perspective. You'll find more in "Difficult Conversations" by Stone, Patton and Heen (Viking, 1999).

### Clearing the air

Can you avoid trying to control the person's reaction? YOU can't get something off from someone ELSE'S chest. She's got to do it herself—in her own way. If you try to control her reaction, you'll just make her angrier.

So, let her do what she's got to do—whether it's tears or obscenities. Then, when her emotion is spent, begin to talk your conflict out.

Can you consider the ways YOU'VE contributed to the problem? My mom was fond of a quirky saying: "When you point your finger at someone else, three of your fingers point back at you." Eat a bit of humble pie and acknowledge how you've contributed to the conflict. If you can admit that you screwed up, you just might encourage your nemesis to do the same.

### Long view

Can you view the situation from down the road? Have you ever had a blowup with a person only to find, months later, that you couldn't remember what the conflict was about? As I grow older, I find that there's something to be said for taking the long view. Sure, a few conflicts maintain themselves, but most have a way of fading over time. "This too shall pass" is not only the moral of a story; it's a useful way to approach most business dealings.

Can you take a break? Things usually look different after a good night's sleep. Now, I don't mean procrastinate. I just mean give yourself time to sort things out. And while you're at it, see if you can get an outsider's viewpoint on what's going on. It may stop you from tipping the gas can on a combustible situation.

Can you ask for help? If you're really stuck, call in someone you both trust to listen to both sides and offer suggestions for how to break your logjam.

You might not have any interest in becoming your better half, but I think you'll find that all your relationships will improve when you can bring yourself to really listen to another person's half of the story.

### Poll results

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: How do you approach a difficult conversation at work?

—Just wait for them to bring it up, 11.2%

—Just avoid it, 16.4%

—Just do it, 72.3%

*(Email him at* bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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# 30 ways to pamper yourself at work

**By Karen Anne C. Liquete**

FRAZZLED? Feeling depressed? Stressed out at work especially this season? Treating yourself to the good things in life need not put a dent in your pocket.

Here are some ways to pamper yourself at work without spending a fortune.

1. Keep a bottle of champagne inside your company freezer. Then, toast your victories and successes with officemates.

2. Ask a cute coworker to give you a neck massage. (Just make sure you steer clear of harassment charges.)

3. Stash a box of dark chocolates in your drawer. Savor the sweetness of life in the middle of a tension-packed day.

4. Slice a piece of lemon/calamansi and squeeze in with your chilled water. It's a great way to add flavor to your water drink at work.

5. Buy scented fresheners like jasmine and ylang-ylang to freshen stale air in the office. Use peppermint to keep you awake.

6. Treat your spouse or significant other to dinner after work. Take time to talk about the important highlights of your day.

7. Write yourself a love letter. Praise yourself shamelessly on paper for being such a wonderful worker.

8. Take a trip to a museum or library at lunch. Immerse yourself in culture and the arts.

9. Sign yourself up for seminars in a field you are interested in. Talk to your HR head if they can split the fee for this. Outline the training benefits you will receive from this course.

10. Browse the Internet for new developments in your field of interest. Search for ways to add to your existing knowledge.

11. Redecorate your office cubicle. Post inspirational posters and pictures of famous people in your field. Or make a photo collage of your officemates/family members at work and display them on your table.

12. Take a few minutes off to massage oil on your feet. It's a guaranteed stress reliever.

13. Pack along your CD player. Listen to soothing sounds whenever you feel stressed or harassed.

14. Nap during lunch. You'll feel refreshed and invigorated after an hour.

15. Keep a diary at work. Whenever you feel negative about your boss or your work situation, "let go" on a piece of paper. Writing your worries and rants on paper helps clear your head and heart.

16. Avail of your remaining vacation leaves. Even if you just stay home and rest, this downtime will help you relax and release unwanted stress.

17. Make a shoe inventory. Vow to wear all those shoes you haven't worn to work in a year. If they no longer appeal to you, give them to charity. Buy a brand new pair.

18. Pack different seasonal fruits to work. Sample as many fruits as you can in a given day: apples, oranges, mangoes, bananas.

19. Make a resolution to live healthy today. That's the ultimate gift you can give to your body and mind.

20. Go to a friend's nearby pool and drown your troubles away. This remedy is very effective after a stressful Monday at work.

21. Pack a romance book or an action novel to read during lull times at work.

22. Sip herbal teas instead of coffee for your instant pick-me-up.

23. Play computer games with your officemates during your downtime.

24. Visit a comedy club after work. Watch SPIT every Tuesday at the Comfort Room and guffaw your heart out.

25. Give yourself space to daydream. Indulge in fantasy before you get down to work.

26. Throw a theme party and dress accordingly.

27. Begin staff meetings with mental games. It's a good way to break the ice and build team spirit.

28. Splurge on a bunch of flowers for a person you love. Or buy colorful flowers just for the heck of it.

29. Write fan mail to the boss who has inspired you or believed in your talents.

30. Spend your lunch or coffee breaks with people who have different interests and hobbies apart from your own. Learn what you can from them.

**SHINKAWA LTD.**

**Philippine Representative Office**

Manufacturer of Semiconductor Equipment

Is in urgent need of:

**TWO (2) SERVICE ENGINEERS**

○ male, not more than 25 years old
○ graduate of Electrical/Electronics Engineering course
○ preferably with experience in diebond/wirebond semiconductor machines
○ good oral and written communication skills
○ with good moral character
○ preferably residing in Baguio City
○ to be assigned in Baguio City

**Please send resumé at:**
**Unit 304 The Sycamore Building**
**Alabang-Zapote Road**
**Alabang, Muntinlupa City**
**or**
**email at: a-castano@shinkawa.com.ph**

(Deadline for submission of application and comprehensive resumé is on Wednesday, December 10, 2003)

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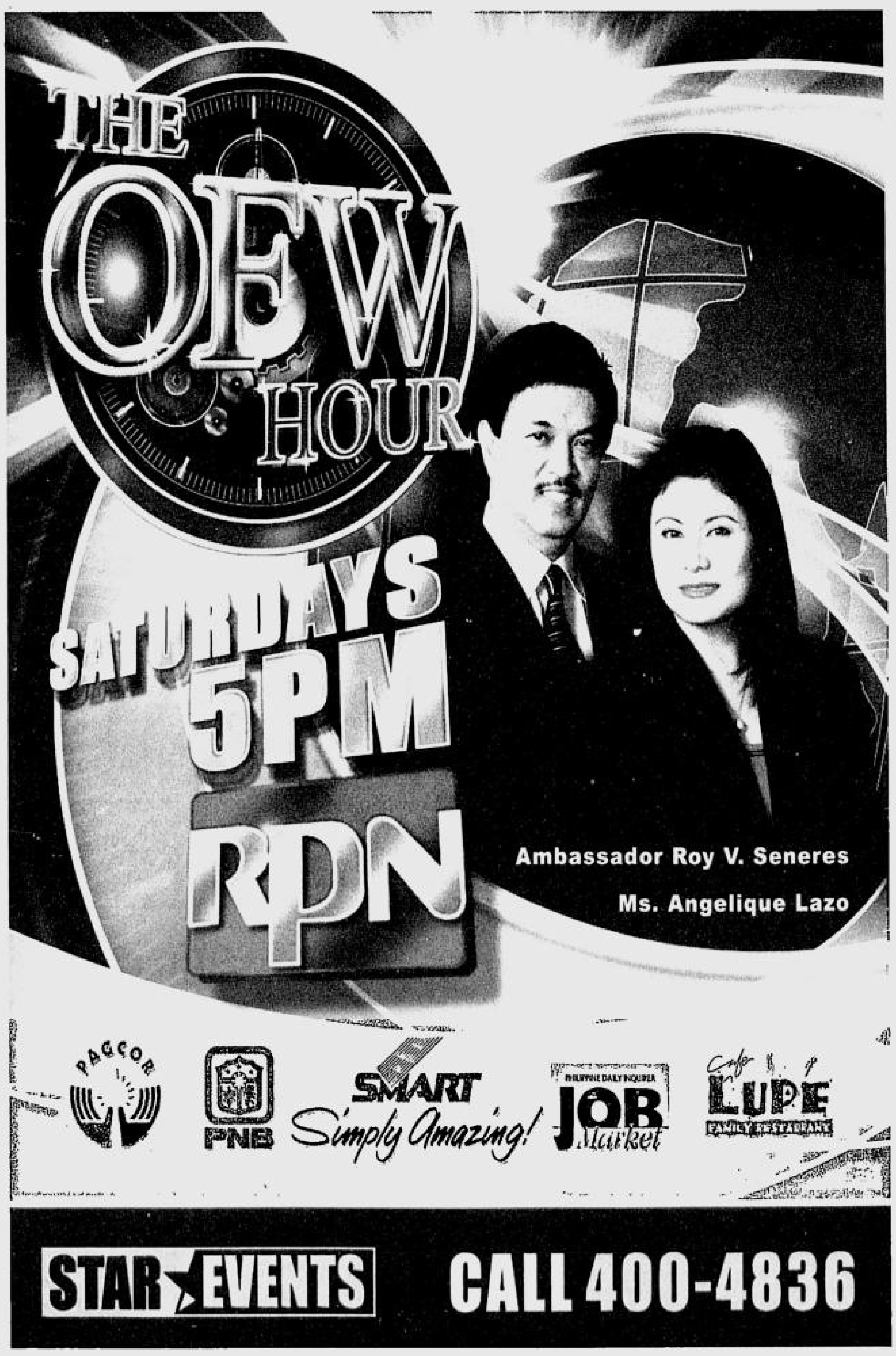

A-Z ACCESS PHILIPPINES, INC.

**A-Z Access Philippines, Inc., a direct marketing service company, is urgently in need of the following:**

## TELEMARKETING SUPERVISOR (Code: MSV001)

- Not more than 30 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With a Bachelor's degree on any four year college course
- With at least 1 year supervisory experience in Telemarketing is a definite plus
- With excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in both written and verbal English communication
- Must be assertive, highly organized, and trustworthy
- With strong leadership and decision-making skills.

## COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (Code: CP002)

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- With a degree in Computer Programming or any computer-related courses
- With at least 1 year work experience in Computer Programming and in system development involving Clipper, FoxPro and Database applications
- Background in Visual Basic is an advantage
- Good oral and written communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be hardworking, trustworthy, analytical, and keen on details
- Can work under minimum supervision

## QUALITY ASSURANCE STAFF (Code: QA003)

- Not more than 28 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With a Bachelor's degree in any Business-related courses
- Must have previous work experience in telemarketing of credit cards
- With excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in both written and verbal English communication
- Must be a team player, highly organized, and honest
- Can work under minimum supervision.

## TELEMARKETERS (Code: TM004)

- Not more than 28 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With work experience in Telemarketing an advantage
- Have excellent communication skills
- Must be assertive, hardworking, resourceful, honest, and results-oriented.

*Interested applicants must submit their comprehensive resumé indicating the position code applying for and recent 2x2 ID picture not later than* ***Dec. 22,2003*** *at:*
*4th floor, A-Z Bldg., 723 Sgt. Bumatay St., Plainview,*
*Mandaluyong City, look for Maan or e-mail at hrd@azapinc.com*

---

Republic of the Philippines
City of Sorsogon

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR**

## WANTED RURAL HEALTH PHYSICIAN

The City Government of Sorsogon is in need of a ***Rural Health Physician*** for the Sorsogon City Amberg Hospital.

**COMPENSATION PACKAGE**

- **Basic Salary – (Php 18,000 per month)**
- **Free Board and Lodging**
- **Renewal of Contract every six (6) months**

Interested applicants are required to fax/send their Personal Data Sheet (CSC Revised Form 212). Resumé or Curriculum Vitae with cover letter and pertinent documents to:

**Mayor Sally A. Lee**
c/o Ms. Asia Olbes
Office of the City Mayor
2/F Shopping Center Sorsogon
**Fax No. (056) 211-7950**

**For details, call: (056) 211-1314 Dr. Lee / (056) 211-4669 Dr. Garcia**
Note: Please confirm your desire within fifteen (15) days upon publication.

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## JOB OPENING

In a young, dynamic and pioneering organization in Market Research and Consulting. If you're the type who wants a challenging and fulfilling career in market research, willing to learn, hard working and wanting to grow with a growing organization, send us your curriculum vitaé that details your experience c/o the following address:

Unit 209 Cityland Condominium 3
Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

We are currently in need of the following:

**Research Assistant/Analyst (send CVs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays)**
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- College graduate, single, female, between 22-28 years of age
- With at least 1-2 years experience in market research
- Good oral and written communication skills, fluent in conversing English a must
- Proficiency in analysis and presentation skills is an added advantage

**Administrative Assistant (send CVs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays)**
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- College graduate, single female, between 23-28 years of age
- With at least 1-2 years experience in this position
- Can converse in English and draft simple correspondence

**Field Researchers/Interviewers (send CVs on Thursdays and Fridays)**
- With or without experience in field interviews in market research
- At least 2 years in College
- Fluent in Chinese is an added advantage

**Also in need of: Experienced TRANSCRIBERS, DRIVER and ACCOUNTING CLERKS (send CVs on Thursdays and Fridays)**

---

## DAILY E-NEWSPAPER NEEDS

## JUNIOR NEWS EDITORS

- with news writing, proofreading, and editing experience
- willing to work afternoons to evenings, six days a week
- knowledgeable in computer office applications and the Internet
- a team player who can work with minimum supervision

*kindly send your*
*comprehensive resumé*
*including expected salary range*
*(in .txt format) to*
*nl_mla@i-manila.com.ph*

---

# A NEW YORK CALL CENTER

## ACCOUNT MANAGER

- With salary of P190,000 – P250,000 per annum
- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
- Must have at least one year experience in the field of sales and marketing
- Basic computer knowledge
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to go on field and have flexible working hours

## ACCOUNTING CLERK

- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must be an accounting graduate and must have at least one year experience in the same field
- 21 to 27 years old, must be a self-starter
- Basic computer knowledge
- Must have strong organizational skills with emphasis on accuracy

## OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS

- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have excellent command of the English language
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Fresh graduates are welcome

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must be a college graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any related course
- Knowledgeable in hardware/software troubleshooting and networking
- Knowledgeable in scanning software and equipments
- Possesses a non-professional driver's license an advantage

**PLS. SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH ID PICTURE TO:**
marcia@nytelecon.com
or mail at P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

---

**Philippine Business for Social Progress**
***Helping People Help Themselves***
*In the face of poverty, we see endless opportunities for growth*

Through the years, our job has means more than just its pay. If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives, we invite you to fill in

## ACCOUNT MANAGER

***The Tasks***

Evaluates and manages credit risks of Intermediary Financial Institutions (IFIs) under a wholesale lending program designed to expand Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) loans. Recommends actions to credit committee as a result of credit review. Provides continued close attention to and monitoring of IFIs under his/her supervision. Classifies accounts and performs corrective actions. Assists in the development and implementation of an enterprise support program that encompasses training, research and policy advocacy to strengthen competencies of SMEs and rural financial institutions.

***The Requirements***

A degree in Business, Banking and Finance or Economics. Preferably with Master's Degree, Minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in financial accounting and analysis, account management, exposure to operations in banking and credit management. Excellent marketing presentation and technical writing skills, and exceptional leadership qualities. Substantial exposure to SME market and operations an advantage.

## GENERAL SERVICES UNIT MANAGER

***The Tasks***

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# Lawyer turned HR consultant finds joy in sharing his legal expertise to people in need

By Candy G. Villanueva

**HR FOCUS**

LAWYER Antonio Fontanilla went from appearing in courtrooms as associate lawyer to HR Director for one of the most reputable hotels in the city championing the needs of employees.As HR Head of the Century Park Hotel, Fontanilla was responsible for all the personnel and training needs of the hotel.

### Change of pace

For fifteen years, Fontanilla was HR Director for the 27-year-old hotel. But time takes it toll even on those who enjoy their job. After more than a decade of dedicated service and unwavering loyalty, Fontanilla decided to take it slow and retired. Now reporting to the office only three times a week, Fontanilla is now Hotel Consultant.

Priding itself for Filipino hospitality, the Century Park Hotel is right smack in the middle of Manila's business center and boasts of various amenities and security features.

### Motivating employees

According to Fontanilla, the hotel is composed of personnel motivated by "the best remuneration and benefits the hotel can afford and continuous training throughout the year on skills enhancement, updating of procedures, attitudinal and communications seminars and other training programs done locally or abroad." He adds, "We also have exchange programs to improve the knowledge of our employees."

As Hotel Consultant, Fontanilla negotiates and implements the two collective bargaining agreements with rank and file and supervisors' unions. In addition, he oversees training recruitment, industrial relations matters, salary and wage scales, personnel discipline, labor management, sports and recreation and quality improvement.

### Decades of experience

Fontanilla earned his law degree from the Ateneo de Manila University. While people were on the streets protesting in the late sixties and early seventies, Fontanilla was busy testing his mettle on law as Junior Associate for Paredes, Poblador, Nazareno, Azada & Tomacruz Law Office. His love for the law quickly merited him a promotion to Senior Associate.

Simultaneously, while practicing law in the bleak times of martial law, Fontanilla taught as Assistant Professor of the College of Commerce in San Juan de Letran for two years. After a decade with the law firm, Fontanilla spent another ten years with the Sulo Group of Companies as Director of Legal Affairs.

Times were changing and Fontanilla changed along with it. At the Sulo Group of Companies, he shifted his focus from the law to human resources. "It never entered my mind that I wanted HR. It just happened and there I was," recalls Fontanilla. With the change of administration from Marcos to Aquino, Fontanilla found himself, once again, changing companies too.

"I was convinced by then general manager of this hotel (Century Park) to accept the position which, to his mind, required a lot of legal know-how. Besides, I was already in the hotel industry ten years before I joined Century Park Hotel," explains Fontanilla.

As HR head, Fontanilla helps his people not only with HR related issues but also with legal advice. Sometimes he goes as far as extending personal advice. "What I love about the job is the opportunity to help people solve problems whether or not they may be job related. There have been a lot of occasions that I have advised employees regarding legal problems such as lease agreements, land registration and domestic relations."

### Employees' adviser

Fontanilla tackles the sensitive and difficult task of being an adviser and employee advocate by being aware that he is dealing with individuals of varied interests, emotions and attitudes. "A lot of understanding is needed in this regard," he shares. "I feel I have the confidence of people when I talk to them."

Lawyering, according to Fontanilla, is a noble profession and of all the things in law that he holds high, it is the quest for truth. "Before you can achieve justice, first you have to seek for the truth. As a lawyer, you must dedicate yourself to the task of seeking what is true."

Similarly, in the HR field, the quest for truth also applies for Fontanilla. "The integrity of the person is important." When it comes to corrective measures, Fontanilla keeps an open mind as long as the employee admits his or her mistake. "As long as the person is honest, we can be open with our corrective approach because we want to give the person a chance to reform and mend his ways."

Fontanilla also expects integrity from applicants. "During job application there should be no name dropping and false pretenses."

### Lessons

With work experience of over a decade in the HR field, Fontanilla has harvested a thousand and one lessons to live by not only in work but in his personal life as well. Frowning upon "company hoppers," he sets an example through his 16-year stay with Century Park. "Be focused on what you are doing," wisely he shares.

He adds to this clever bit of wisdom by adding, "Remember you do not deal with machines but with people who may even be more complex than you could imagine. When making decisions, be fair, firm and consistent."

But one of the most important lessons he learned was earned painfully. Before his retirement, his wife passed away from a lingering illness. "This was, to say the least, devastating but it brought forth the realization that we are all here only for a temporary period. If we do anything, we might as well do it well; otherwise, we may not have the opportunity to do it in the future."

Past his retirement age, Fontanilla gets by with the beautiful memories he had with his wife of almost 30 years.

Fontanilla describes a perfect weekend as spending time with his daughters and grandchildren going to malls or catching the latest flick, but not before a quiet visit to the cemetery.

PHOTO BY ROGER MARGALLO

LAWYER Antonio Fontanilla

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## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

# 'Enough' wisdom

**By Teresa R Tunay, OCDS**

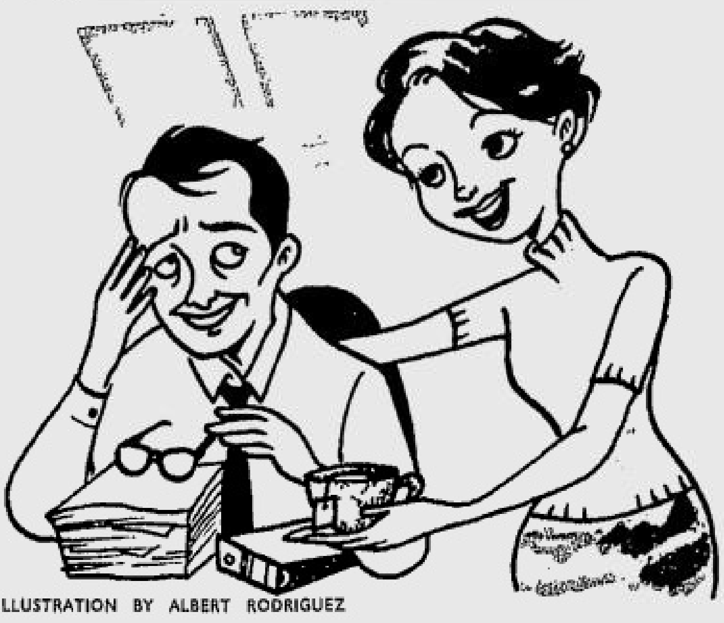
FOR today we're focusing on verses 10 to 11 of the Sunday's gospel reading. At once the lesson we grasp is the value of the word "enough." Whether it is in giving or in taking, it is pure wisdom to know when enough is enough. It is not only a practical value at the workplace—it is immeasurably helpful in preventing unhealthy and potentially dangerous situations at work

If you have more time or talent than you need at the precise moment a co-worker is wanting, share the spare with him or her. There's a new trainee at work? Lend a helping hand. A colleague is in straits due to an emergency at home? Come to the rescue. Even if you're a department manager, gladly serve coffee to the president's guests if his secretary's absent; it is never demeaning to stand in as a servant in the name of charity, but do know the difference between true charity and veiled manipulation.

When you're at the taking end of the line, know when to say "Enough!" to yourself, too. Feigning helplessness while taking advantage of a co-worker's goodwill or generosity will boomerang on you in ways too subtle to notice at first. Whether a colleague helps you out with skills, time, sympathy or money, it is always wise to blow the whistle when it's time to stop—otherwise you'll have only yourself to blame if in due time you become sickeningly dependent on others to get by.

It is never that easy to stop—especially when you believe you are but doing good or allowing another to do good—but knowing when to say "Enough" keeps things on an even keel.

*(E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*



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**Gospel Lk. 3: 10-18**

*And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."*

# Sharing oneself in work

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD**

WHEN John the Baptist announced that the Messiah was about to come, people asked him, "What then should we do?" This was the most logical and important question to be asked by people who longed for a Savior.

For those who believe that work has a liberating effect in the life of the worker himself and for the people around him, the same question could be asked: What then should we do in order to enjoy such saving role of work?

The answer John the Baptist gave to soldiers, tax collectors and others in the crowd who asked the above question was in essence twofold: one, they should perform their duties faithfully well, and two, they should do their work as a sharing of themselves with the others. The worker, who puts full time and energy in his work, doing excellently his job, will enjoy the full compensation for his job. He also receives bonuses or salary increases given by most companies for extraordinary workers. Above all, he takes pride in feeling liberated from low self-esteem and feels empowered to stand tall with pride in his accomplishments.

In giving oneself totally to the job, the worker also shares himself with the others. The knowledge and skill that the worker employs in doing his job is a sharing of himself from deep within him—his acquired talents and skills gained through years of toil and experience. Such sharing from the depths of one's being, which flows over to a faithful accomplishment of one's work, gives one a sense of self-fulfillment and liberation.

*(E-mail the author at* mfv@skyinet.net*)*

# Wishing for Harry's invisibility cloak

**By Resty S. Odon**

COMPANY bosses are a pitiful sight every time it's Christmas. They are always the inevitable targets of young "terrorists"—and their parents—during the holiday season. But they have found a way out of their predicament, perhaps thinking that if it's something inescapable, one might as well make it official.

There is a tradition in our company where our CEO sets aside a day around Christmas for all the little children of employees. Of course, the definition of "little" depends largely upon the assessment of the parent. The kids are told to line up at the CEO's door, whisked inside the room one by one, and then harassed into rendering a short presentation before being handed cash gifts amounting to two crisp P100 bills. Depending on the performance, the gift can be raised by P50 increments.

I cannot start to figure the logistical nightmare: How to find ways to come up with cold cash, in crisp new P100 denomination signed by the latest president, for an unpredictable number of children who would show up. The danger of cash running out in the middle of a song-and-dance is a reality.

My immediate superior is especially terrorized when a portion of the queue suddenly troops to her room in single file—unannounced. She is reduced into a picture of discombobulation, like Harry Potter fidgeting with his invisibility cloak. In what appears to be a suggestion for a reprisal, one of the supervisors says that, in the future, our boss should order their scheming guardians, not the children, to render their own impromptu presentations.

We can't blame the big shots if they claim it's better to receive than to give. They have no choice but to dismiss everything as the price of privilege—the unwritten rule called noblesse oblige. One ignores it at the risk of social censure. Taking their cue from the children, two enterprising officemates pretend to be a clumsy father and son tandem and joins the queue of children, veritable grownups sticking out like sore thumbs in the company of adorable pinkies. It is a thankful comic relief for our boss and for everyone.

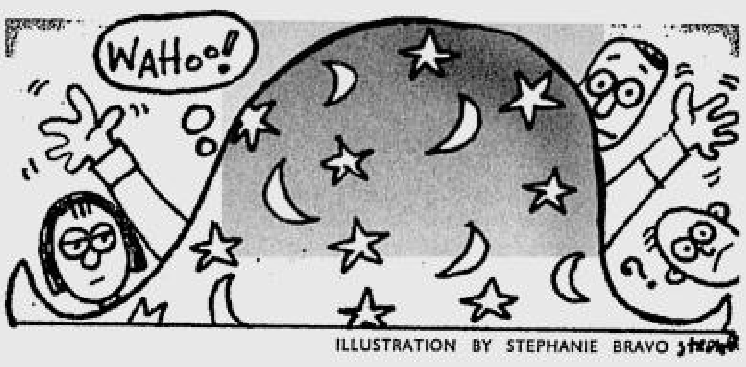

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Everyone agrees, though, that no amount of money and logistic contrivance can pay for the joy of seeing the face of children light up like flash bulbs. Our CEO reportedly swears by the "good karma" attached to making children happy. He believes that giving children cold cash is like blessing a host of angels. I personally swear by it, too, that's why I make it a point to make my every Christmas one for the kids, indeed.

One of the purest joys I've ever experienced in life is that of being spontaneously kissed by a little *inaanak* (godson) after I surprised him with a gift daintily wrapped especially for him. My memory just couldn't delete that image of a little face lighting up and those little lips puckering up for a smack without being told to do so. It's a file I would always want to save, and for which I would need no invisibility cloak.

Someone said we should be grateful for being the ones who have to give, instead of the ones who must receive.

*(Send your contributions to Postcards to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

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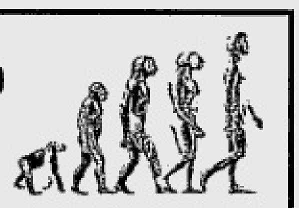

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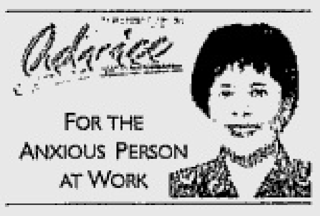
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

# 'I want to be part of workforce again'

By Tita Datu Puangco



**I WAS a bank rank and file employee involved in branch operations until downsizing became a trend due to our present economic situation. It is unfortunate that the company would rather pirate from other banks than to train seasoned and loyal employees who stay.**

**Will it be too hard for someone like me (a 32-year old) to seek employment again in the banking industry? I am currently unemployed and most job vacancies are in the booming outsourcing or call center field. Do you think it is wise to consider a career shift at this stage? Trying to get employed during these times is really agonizing.**

**I hope you can enlighten me, and countless readers of yours out there sharing the same dilemma as mine. I hope you can provide me with prospective job leads. I really want to be a part of the workforce again.**

**Thank you very much for your helpful column.**

**Troubled Soul**

Thank you for sharing with us your questions. You are right, downsizing has affected the job market considerably. This is mostly felt in fields with specialized jobs in a hierarchical organizational structure that encourages lifetime employment. Banking is one of these fields.

In a study done a few years back, one of the "megatrends" that experts were projecting for this decade is the paradigm shift from lifetime employment to short-term employment. On the part of the employee, this means that he/she is not just looking for a job to retire in, he or she is looking for a job to fulfill his life with. Employees will be looking for fulfillment and not just a paycheck. They will pick jobs, not just because of the pay, but also because of the growth potential and learning opportunities it will give them. Employers, on the other hand, have to adjust their structures to be more flat with less hierarchy. They will expect employees to be multiskilled and adapt to technological advances quickly.

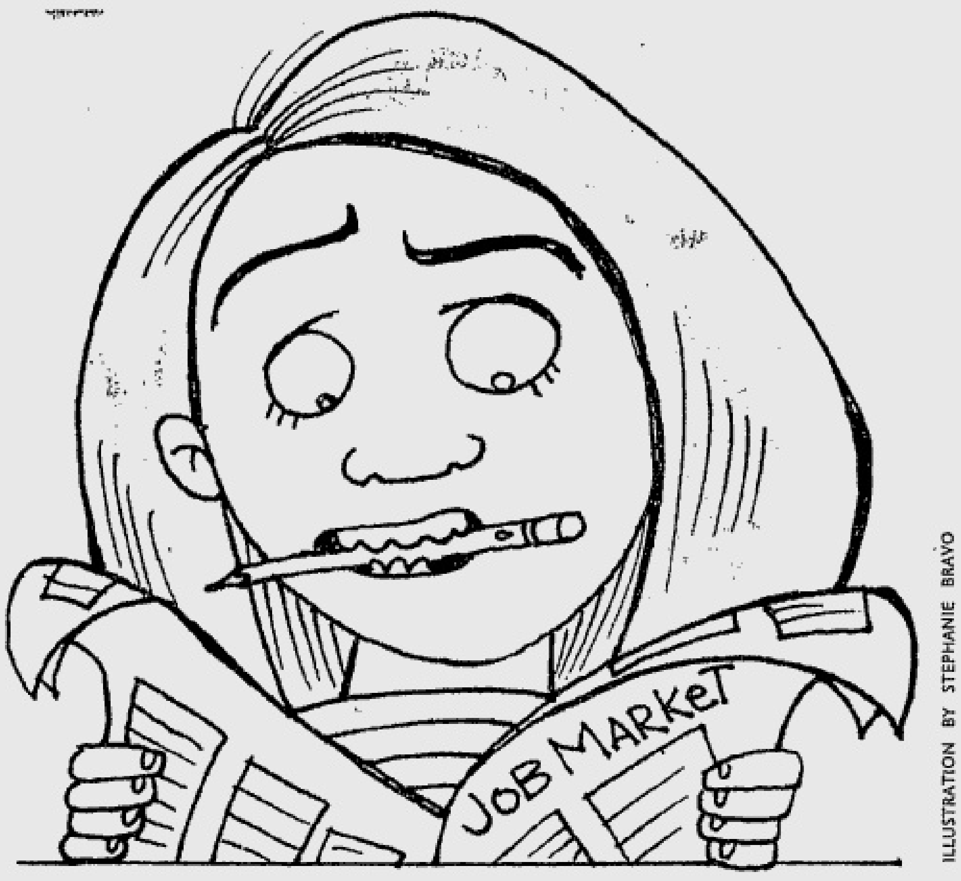


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

### Opportunity

Though this situation gives way to downsizing and "pirating" people from other companies, it also allows people more diversity in the kind of work that they do. Your being let go could be an opportunity for you to assess your skills, favorite interests, work conditions, geographical preferences and pursue a career in the field that you enjoy. If the company you were with did not grow your skills for their requirements, then it is fortunate that you are out of there at your age.

In a book called "New Passages," the author talks of the career life cycle. He says that instead of being linear and vertical, meaning an employee works his way up the corporate ladder being promoted from one level on to the next, some people find themselves now with cyclical careers. These people shift from industry to industry and from function to function. They have to start again from scratch and work their way to being an expert, then shift to another field and so on. I think career planning in the 21st century should take this perspective.

### Call center

In the meantime, going for a call center job might be a good idea. It is a lucrative field right now, servicing so many sectors, one of which is the banking industry. Your banking background would be an asset for a call center that fields inquiries ranging from bank product features to credit card payments to bank account information. It could be the birth of a new career cycle for you, incorporating your past experience with fresh skills in a sunrise industry.

I think your drive to be employed again will also be key in finding a job. Keep your enthusiasm. Refuse to be discouraged and turn your past into your asset. Also, believe in the grace that will come your way once you're on the right path. As Paolo Coelho says in "The Alchemist," if you find your own personal legend, the universe will conspire to give it to you.

### Book release

God bless your search. When you do find work, I hope you keep us posted. I'm sure your story will be an inspiration to countless others who are experiencing the same thing.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank also those who have been part of this column in one way or another. All of you readers and letter senders who share with us your joys and pains so generously are truly a gift to us in Ancilla. To you, we would like to announce that we have compiled the best columns into a book entitled "Advice for the Anxious Pinoy at Work." It is not available in the bookstores but you may get in touch with us through email at info@ancillaedc.com.ph or phone, 892-2895 or 96 to get your copy at an introductory price. We will also have a book signing at our offices for the first 100 who reserve. This is our way of saying thank you and may the blessed season truly be so for you and your loved ones.

*(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to* advice@ ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902)*

## What's inside

*Working Wounded: How do you prepare for a difficult conversation?*
*p. N8*

*30 ways to pamper yourself at work*
*p. N8*

*Reflections for the Working Soul*
*p. N11*

*HR Focus: Lawyer Antonio Fontanilla*
*p. N10*

*Wishing for Harry's invisibility cloak*
*p. N11*

# Recycled UBCs provide employment for Tahanang Walang Hagdanan

PR & Corporate Communications Manager Gina Virtusio, partner-school, San Beda Ecological society representative Ronald Aguirre, and Manila Sports Council Chairman Atienza

MANILA Sports Council Chairman Atienza confirms support by signing on the GCGH poster

TAHANANG Walang Hagdanan VP/CEO Jess Docot, Virtusio, Manila Sports Council Chairman Atienza, WG&A Super Commerce COO Wilmer Alfonso, and Emily Macabinquel, TWH Treasurer

MANILA Sports Council Chairman Ali Atienza, WG&A Super Commerce COO Wilmer Alfonso and WG&A SuperFerry PR & Corporate Communications Manager Gina Virtusio crush UBCs before storage. Tahanang Walang Hagdanan VP/CEO Jess Docot looks on.

USED beverage cans (UBCs) are the most recycled consumer package in the whole world. According to studies, the used beverage aluminum can is the leader in recycling for more than 20 years—this is because UBCs are 100 percent recyclable.

More than that, there are tremendous social, economic and environmental benefits to recycling aluminum cans—and in the country, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH) is one of the organizations that make use of recycled UBCs for employment purposes.

TWH is a non-government organization that provides persons with disabilities (PWDs) with haven, rehabilitation and employment through donations of UBCs that TWH converts into tubes for wheelchairs, leg-braces, canes and crutches.

Accordingly, creating these mobility aids with their own hands not only provides employment for the PWDs of TWH, but also opens doors to more opportunities for a productive life.

### UBC drive for the environment- and PWD-friendly

Some seven years back, shipping company WG&A SuperFerry's PR and Corporate Communications Manager Gina Virtusio wanted to conceptualize a project that would clear the environment of non-biodegradable wastes—an ecological program meant to gather and recycle UBCs.

"I've been thinking of ways how to get rid of passenger-accumulated soda cans inside our ships—and all I can think of was to recycle these cans," Virtusio related.

Upon learning that TWH is need of UBCs in order to render employment for their PWD-beneficiaries, and in relation to meeting the strict requirements of the International Standards of Ship Management, WG&A SuperFerry initiated the Give A Can. Give Hope program in 1997.

Since then, the shipping company has been acting as conduit by transporting collected empty aluminum cans from participating institutions throughout the Philippines to the TWH compound, which is located at Aida St., Marick Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal.

UBC drop centers were also built and strategically placed in SuperFerry's 23 ports nationwide where everyone is encouraged to bring their UBCs for recycling.

TWH VP/CEO Jess Docot now urges the public to adopt the Give a Can. Give Hope project by collecting all recyclable aluminum cans.

"TWH accepts donations of used beverage cans of any brand. After collecting the cans, we kindly ask the public to please send it to our office or through the various offices of SuperFerry," Docot said.

### Public empowerment

In order to strengthen the project, WG&A SuperFerry recently placed a 4-foot makeshift can-bin at the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal in South Harbor to store passenger-accumulated UBCs.

"The thrust of Give A Can. Give Hope has always been to promote youth volunteerism in recycling UBCs because the youth is the largest UBC-consumer and we see the need to make them aware that recycling aluminum cans can have a positive impact on the environment and on the lives of persons with disabilities," Virtusio explained.

"It takes 62 UBCs to make one kilo, 150 kilos of UBCs to make one wheelchair, and one wheelchair means employment for our brothers and sisters at TWH," Virtusio added.

In partnership with other private, public and government institutions, Give A Can. Give Hope has generated UBCs corresponding to over 300 wheelchairs and 100 crutches for the past six years.

Other Aboitiz Transport Group companies such as SuperCat Fast Ferry Corp. and Cebu Ferries Corp. also support the Give A Can. Give Hope program.

### Proper 'canning'

By ensuring a successful collection of UBCs, one must remember that all parts of the aluminum can, not just the tab, are 100% recyclable.

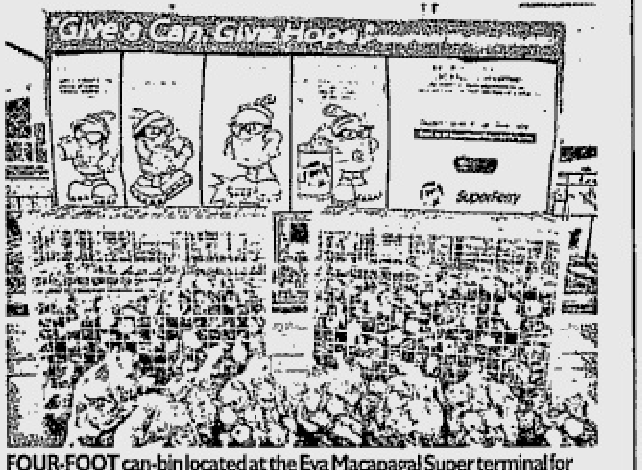
Here are a few tips in the proper security of UBCs:

Crush or flatten aluminum cans before putting inside container. This allows three times as many cans stored in the same space.

Carry a small magnet to ensure that the cans you collect are made of aluminum. A magnet won't stick to the bottom or side of the aluminum can while it will on a tin or steel can.

Instead of selling UBCs for a fund-raiser activity, give to TWH because for every can, one PWD is given hope to lead a better life.

* HOW CAN YOU HELP? Be an advocate of Give A Can. Give Hope and partner with us in this noble project—e-mail comments/ inquiries to hopeinthecan@wgasuperferry.com or call 528-7888, 528-7621/ fax 528-7890.



FOUR-FOOT can-bin located at the Eva Macapagal Super terminal for passenger-accumulated UBCs

PWD crushing UBCs

VP/CEO of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan Jess Docot

CRUSHED UBCs

PWDs making wheelchairs out of recycled UBCs

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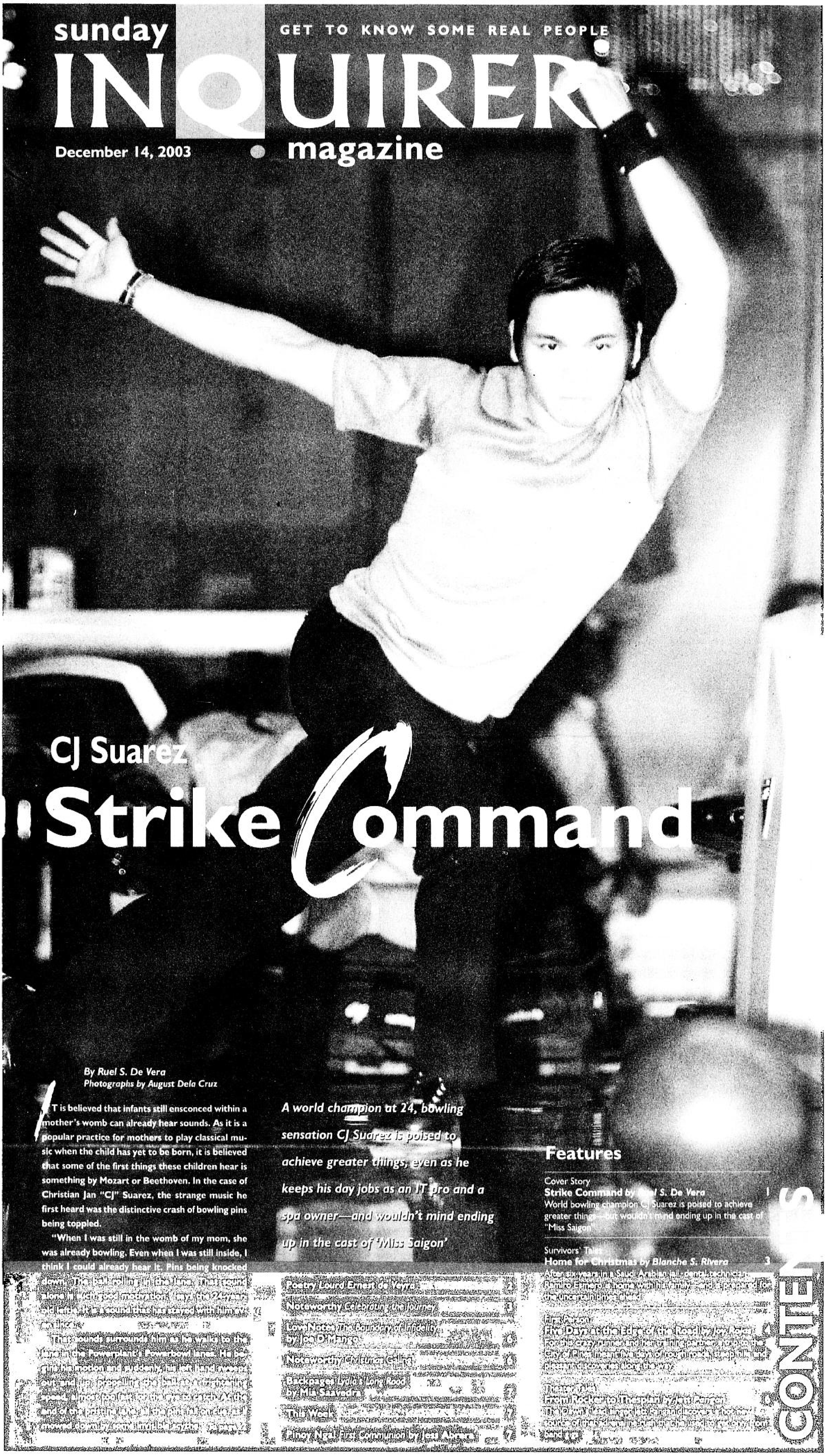


## CJ Suarez

# Strike Command

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by August Dela Cruz

*A world champion at 24, bowling sensation CJ Suarez is poised to achieve greater things, even as he keeps his day jobs as an IT pro and a spa owner—and wouldn't mind ending up in the cast of 'Miss Saigon'*

IT is believed that infants still ensconced within a mother's womb can already hear sounds. As it is a popular practice for mothers to play classical music when the child has yet to be born, it is believed that some of the first things these children hear is something by Mozart or Beethoven. In the case of Christian Jan "CJ" Suarez, the strange music he first heard was the distinctive crash of bowling pins being toppled.

"When I was still in the womb of my mom, she was already bowling. Even when I was still inside, I think I could already hear it. Pins being knocked down. The ball rolling in the lane. That sound alone is a [illegible] motivation," says the 24-year-old lefty. It's a sound that has stayed with him ever since.

That sound surrounds him as he walks to the lane in the Powerplant's Powerbowl lanes. He begins his motion and suddenly, his left hand swoops out and up, propelling the ball [illegible]

## Features

Cover Story
**Strike Command by Ruel S. De Vera** 1
World bowling champion CJ Suarez is poised to achieve greater things—but wouldn't mind ending up in the cast of "Miss Saigon"

Survivors' Tales
**Home for Christmas by *Blanche S. Rivera*** 3
After six years in a Saudi Arabian jail, dental technician [illegible] is home with his family [illegible]

First Person
**Five Days at the Edge of the Road by [illegible]** 4
[illegible]

Theater [illegible]
**From Rocker to Thespian by [illegible]** 6
[illegible]

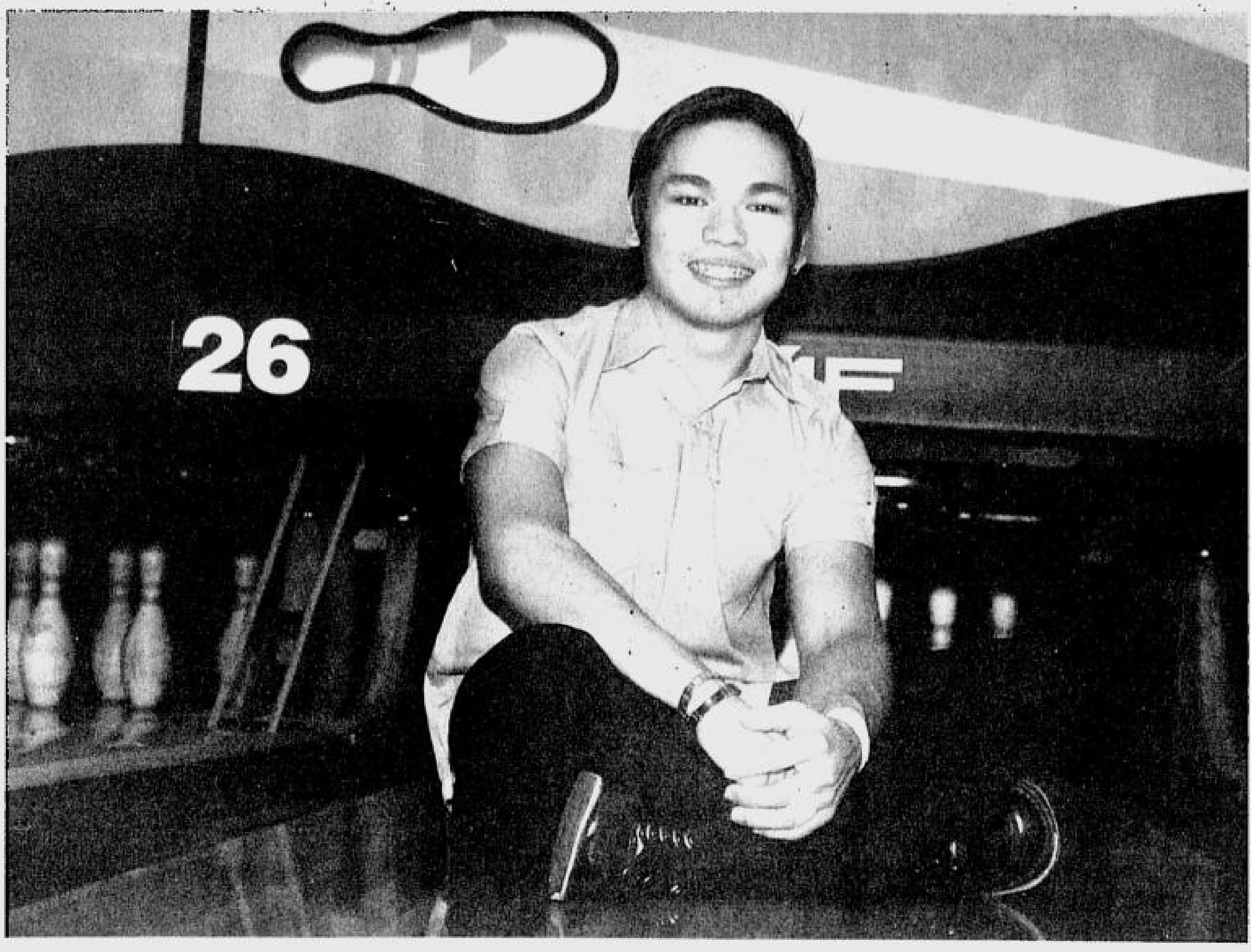
Poetry Lourd Ernest de Veyra 2
Noteworthy Celebrating the Journey 3
Love Notes The Boundary of Infidelity by [illegible] 6
Noteworthy Christmas Calling 6
Backpage Lydia's Long Road by [illegible] 7
This Week 7
Pinoy [illegible] First Communion by [illegible] 7

CONTENTS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CJ ...from page 1

Semi-famous: Suarez is still rarely recognized outside the bowling centers—something that's bound to change soon



That was the same polished form that Suarez flashed when he shot to instant celebrity by bagging the 2003 AMF World Cup, one of the sport's crown jewels, in Honduras. Suarez thus followed in the footsteps of the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno (who won that title four times) Bong Coo and Lita del Rosario as the only Filipinos to have lifted the World Cup. With that win, Suarez announced his arrival as one of Philippine sports' brightest talents.

Yet there is so much more to Suarez than his chosen sport, as the earring on his left ear attests to. The eldest of three children, Suarez was born December 24, 1978, hence the "Christian" part of his name, the "Jan" is derived from January, when he was supposed to be born; yes, he was born prematurely. His father, Teody Suarez, is vice president and Chief Information Officer at EastWest Bank, while his mother is a homemaker.

Suarez finished high school at the Ateneo before taking his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Information Technology at the University of Asia & the Pacific.

Suarez remembers engaging in his first tenpin game at 8. "I only bowled for a year, then I stopped for six years," he says, explaining that his interest simply shifted to other things. He played golf for three years when bowling came rolling back into his life when he was 14.

"I was the team captain for the Ateneo Grade School team that year and we had won the debut tournament of the inter-school competition," Suarez says. His coach, Boni Solis, encouraged him and his parents to return to the sport.

Growing up, he realized the sport wasn't as popular among his peers as, say, basketball. "The main reason I stuck with it was that it was the time I spent with my family," he explained. "We had this time to enjoy each other's presence and bond, plus there was the idea of competition at a very young age." It was only after winning that first inter-school tournament that bowling became a really serious concern for him. "I decided I wanted to bowl on weekdays, as well."

The very next year, he qualified for a spot on the National Youth Team at 15. His career rolled steadily on from that point as he began winning local competitions. Suarez won his first cash prize at 17, and he estimates he's won some 10 to 15 tourneys. In 1999, he represented the country for the first time at the World Cup. In 2001, he was named Philippine Youth Bowler of the Year. That same year, he won two gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games, scoring in both the Team of Five and Trio categories. In 2002, he grabbed an Asian Games silver medal in the Trios.

Throughout that time, he never stopped studying. Balancing everything was difficult, and he often lacked sleep. But he made both his sport and studies priorities.

Another thing that was different was that while his classmates grew up idolizing basketball players, Suarez instead followed the careers of Nepomuceno and Bong Coo, among others.

In spite of his devotion to his sport (when preparing for a tournament, he bowls six times a week), Suarez is more than just the sum of his scores. Away from the lanes, Suarez is a freelance IT specialist, providing business solutions for clients (he was involved in the upgrading of the ticketing system for the Powerplant cinema in Rockwell, Makati, for example). He's been working as much as he can between training for international tournaments. He's also a part-owner of the popular, year-old Getaway Spa in Quezon City. "The owners are also bowlers," he says. His bowling purses constituted his investment in the spa. He's actually enjoying the spa business (he's also the Corporate Secretary). "Since I'm enjoying my IT work, my business and my bowling, I'd like to continue what I'm doing now."

Like many local bowlers, Suarez is still considered an amateur athlete (officially becoming a professional bowler entails a long qualification process) and he says most bowlers actually prefer to remain so. You really can't live just as a bowler, he says frankly. "Whatever we're getting from the government isn't enough." Suarez is fortunate to be sponsored by Team Bowlmart, under National Team Coach Johnson Cheng, as well as Rotogrip International Bowling Products. He has lifetime privileges at Powerbowl and any of the Puyat bowling centers. Puyat Sports, in fact, sent him to the tournament that changed his life: the World Cup.

Last year, Suarez came close, but failed to make it all the way in the World Cup, finishing ninth and missing the TV finals by two pins. Arriving in Tegucigalpa, Honduras for this year's World Cup, Suarez told himself, "It's going to be tougher." Former champions, such as defending champion Mika Luoto of Finland, prowled the lanes in Honduras, after all.

Suarez, however, put on a sparkling show of bowling, defeating Luoto in dramatic fashion in the semifinals to advance to the finals versus Marcel van den Bosch of the Netherlands. In the back of his head, Suarez knew he had a chance but didn't want to put additional pressure on himself. "I was imagining him raising the cup, not seeing myself in that position."

Suarez remembered what his father, whom he considers his mentor and who had accompanied him to Tegucigalpa, told him. "Remember, this is what you've worked for." With a sweet, sweeping left hand that administered doom to unsuspecting pins, Suarez swept van den Bosch to win his first major individual international title. He was understandably abashed by it all. "I wept tears of joy," he says. The victory caught the Philippines by surprise and Suarez became something of an overnight sensation, treated to welcoming ceremonies and a motorcade.

Truth is, he is recognized only when he goes to bowling centers. "It's very rare that I would be recognized outside the bowling centers," Suarez says. "People still think that Paeng is the one representing the country."

Of course, Suarez wishes that more people would take up bowling, the way billiards has captured a generation's imagination. He's certainly doing his part, giving clinics whenever time allows. "Seeing the enthusiasm of the young students makes me feel good,"

A self-admitted obsessive-compulsive, Suarez has always been a very organized as well as a competitive person, whether it be bowling or school. He still enjoys spending a lot of time with his family or going out with his friends. He also enjoys a good game of badminton (right-handed), and says he has a killer swing on the driving range. One thing he enjoys is singing and dancing, ever since he was a part of the Ateneo Children's Theater. "I tell myself that if I wasn't bowling I would be in the cast of 'Miss Saigon,'" he says with a laugh. That, or become a doctor. He continues to expand his CD collection; Michael Bublé and Josh Groban are current favorites.

As his parents both bowled, it is easy to assume that perhaps Suarez got his bowling talent from them. It shouldn't come as a surprise then that more Suarezes may just be coming down that lane: Suarez's younger brother Brian Jasper, 21, is on the National Youth Team, and sister Alexis Joan, 15, is a youth bowler, as well.

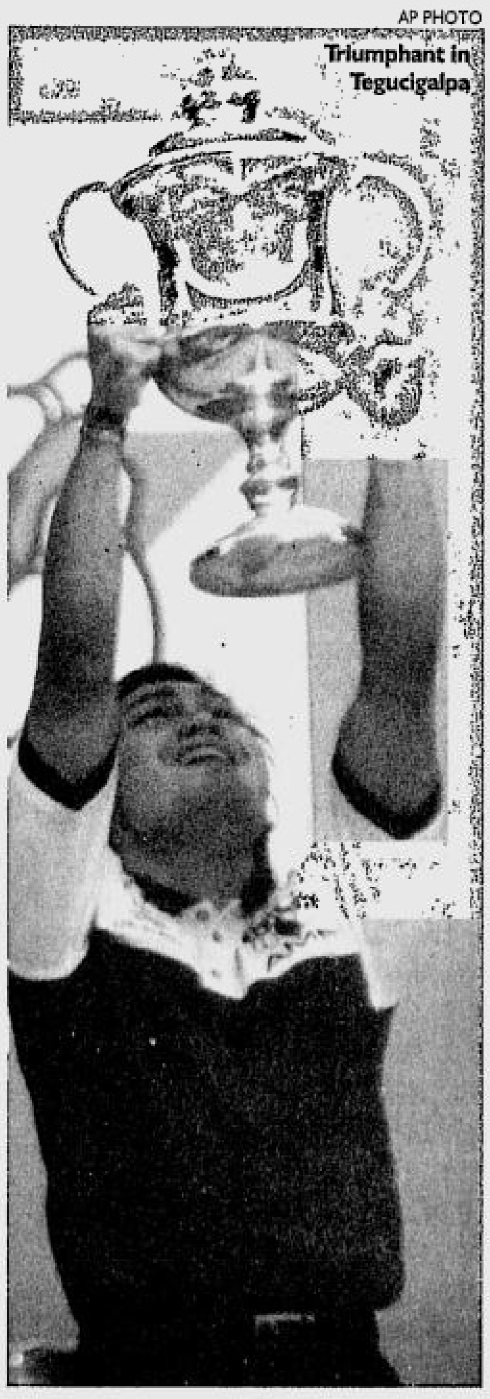
While Suarez has skipped the remaining tournaments for this year because he wanted to rest and "end the year with the World Cup win," he is looking forward to a full year of top-notch bowling next year (bowling was excluded from this year's SEA Games in Vietnam) as he intends to join more tournaments next year. "Whenever I join a tournament, people will expect me to win," he says of the newfound expectations. Noting that some tournaments actually work against lefties like him, Suarez says he focuses on giving a good effort in each tournament, regardless of result. "I can only promise to bowl well each time," he says. Yet Suarez isn't going to be milking his World Cup win, either. "This is the break that I needed to boost my career and whenever I bowl now, I have this confidence inside me because I don't have to prove anything anymore."

Beyond that, Suarez may just be leading a new generation of bowling powers (lady bowler Jojo Cañare finished fourth in Honduras, enabled the Philippines to take the Best Country Performance title). "Collectively, in the years to come, we will be seeing more of bowling." He's certainly not letting up.

He remains the consummate gym rat. "My day is ruined if I don't go to the gym," he says. Already, he's talking about a tournament in January. There are specific targets, such as hopefully bowling in the Olympics, or a chance at the World Bowling Masters in London next year. He intends to make sure that this World Cup win is the beginning and not the end-all of his young career. "I would never settle for second best."

As he ends his sentence, the bowling lanes are full. Pins fall. That sweet music fills the air again, and CJ Suarez smiles widely.

AP PHOTO



Triumphant in Tegucigalpa

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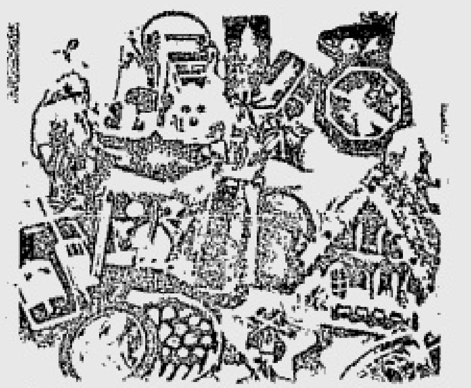


**ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS** Mandarin Oriental, Manila sparkles with the bountiful joys and good tidings of Christmas with its finest banquet feasts, enticing room packages, and a selection of deli specialty items like an assortment of cakes and pastries, European cheeses and wines, and customized Christmas hampers. For inquiries, call 750-8888. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

## Agitato con Motto

The silence is sepulchral.
Sunday afternoon. Dust gathers on the blue vase.

Confusion of violins from a Bartok symphony expands this room,
taxing the oxidized dimensions of logic and memory.

The calendar hangs on the wall like a false note.
My hand unmoving on the table, in stasis teetering on existential.

A lazy wind wafts in the window. Time and intransition clash in gothic dissonance.
Patience melts away like candles at a saint's bloody feet

and the last light before extinction splinters off into the infinite corners
of this room called Sunday afternoon,

of course, broken only by decibels blaring desire and fear
as interpreted by modern music that mirrors man as muted echo.

The electric fan needs more Singer oil. Sleep may or may not come later.
The whole room smells of ash.

Minutes pass and the violins fade out.
Strange heaviness on my chest.

Smoke from the untouched cigarette curlicues.
Fear slides in sinuously like a cello glissando, atonal

and melodic but murderous, if only for its truthful texture.
Tremolo, then, of languor harmonized with time,

Bowed lyrical with madness and a B flat seventh
and memory. A funeral denouement.

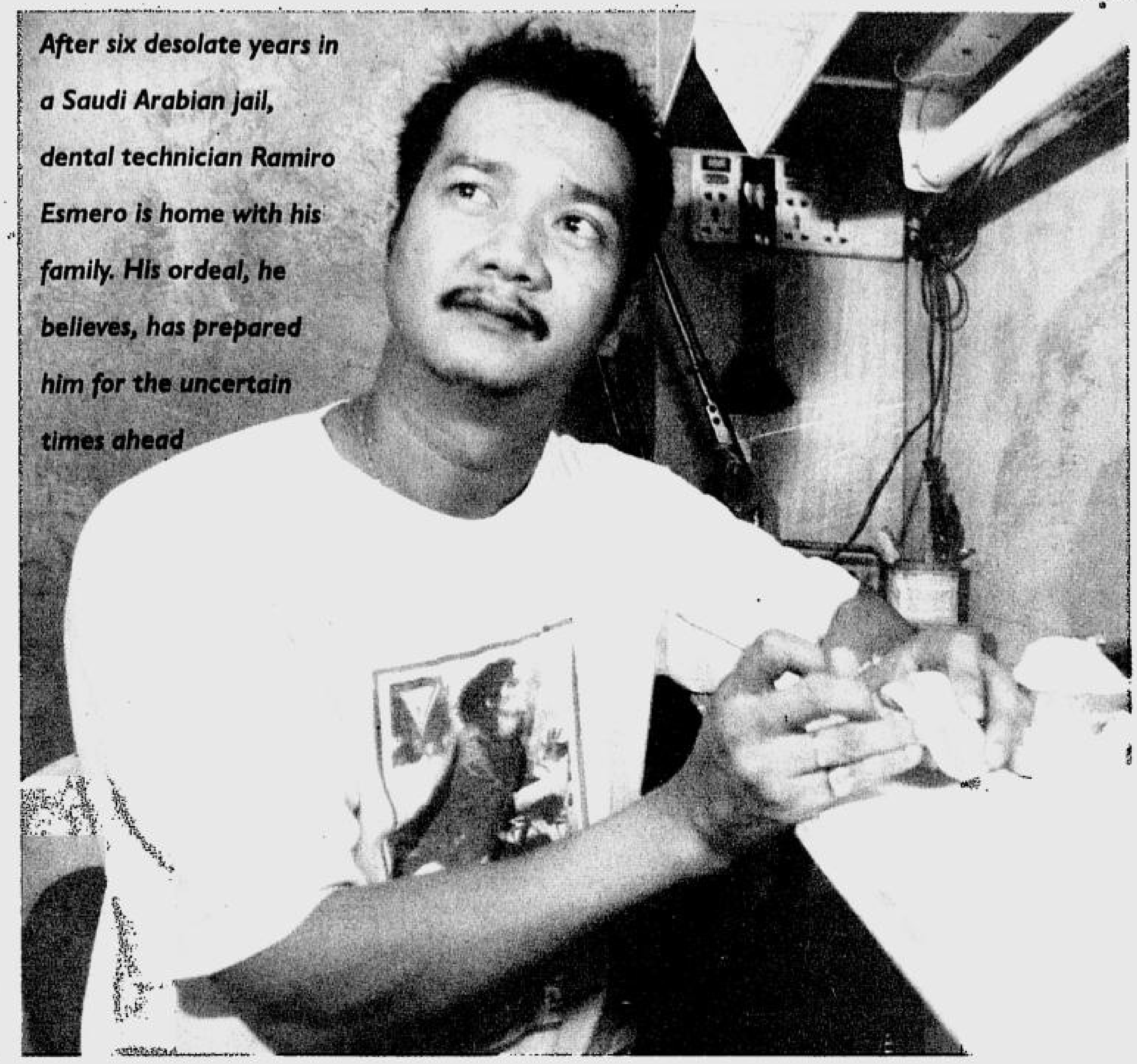
Like Bartok, the ending is minimal.
The silence is sepulchral.

**Lourd Ernest De Veyra**

## Survivors' Tales

*By Blanche S. Rivera*
*Photographs by Egay Montaña*

# Home for Christmas



*After six desolate years in a Saudi Arabian jail, dental technician Ramiro Esmero is home with his family. His ordeal, he believes, has prepared him for the uncertain times ahead*

**HE NOW smokes his cigarettes without first watching out for jail guards, savoring every puff and shaking his head occasionally as he recalls the six years he spent in a Saudi Arabia prison. Ramiro Esmero is one of those overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who smile—half sincerely, half-cynically—at the thought that they are now hailed as heroes back home by the government.**

Esmero was one of three Filipino suspects in the murder of Saudi policeman Fahad Al-Otaibi in 1997. Although Esmero, along with trailer truck driver Joselito Alejo and Romeo Cordova, were acquitted of the charge by the high court, he and Alejo were rearrested for failing to report their knowledge of the policeman's killing. Cordova was found guilty of falsifying his travel document. The three received 70 lashes at the Malaz jail on Aug. 27, 1997, and were finally repatriated in September this year.

Except for a born-again Christian, a minister at the Philippine embassy and a government lawyer who had worked to save the three OFWs from the *gasas* (Arabic for guillotine), Ramiro does not remember the names of the public officials who welcomed them at the airport on Sept. 16.

"I don't know them, I was looking for my two kids," he says. He has been separated from them for nine years, since he went abroad on his second contract with an employer in Nashim Shara Nakil, Riyadh.

"They were really brave. They even spoke on TV," Esmero says, proudly calling out to his two daughters, Marie Joy, 14, and Joana Mica, 12. His wife Marissa is in Bahrain, working at the Dairy Queen since 1997, when Esmero was arrested.

She came back for a special vacation on Sept. 21 upon learning that her husband has been released and was coming home. But she could only stay for two weeks. A third child might be coming, Esmero says with a sheepish smile that quickly vanishes.

"I don't know what's going to happen. If there's nothing for me here, I might go back to Saudi," he says casually, as though he has not just been talking about two months of torture and three years without any contact with his family in the Philippines.

On Aug. 10, 1997, Esmero, a dental technician at the Model Dental Polyclinic, was on his way to Sitin, 30 minutes by taxi from his place in Nakil, to do some dental work on the Filipinos employed at the Aquarius, behind the Riyadh zoo.

It was his first crack at a side job. Soon after he arrived, he got a call from his cousin's husband, Arnold Pascual, who told him to stay where he was because he would come. A heavy smoker, Esmero was just about to light a cigarette when Pascual came with several policemen and the words that sealed his fate for the next few years: "That's him."

Esmero and around 20 others were arrested for the murder of Saudi police Fahad Al-Otaibi, but only he, Alejo and Cordova were left in jail. Until now, Esmero claims he knows little about Al-Otaibi or his death, except that it almost ruined his life. Pascual, who fingered him, was released a few days after Esmero's and Alejo's arrest.

Esmero himself can hardly believe that he survived two years in a *hajus* (*bartolina* or solitary confinement), one-fourth the size of the already small living room in their house in Liliw, Laguna. He has fractures on his face and scars on his legs from the lashes, the bouts with a baseball bat, the kicks and punches, the stubs on his toes. Sometimes, he literally did not know what hit him anymore.

With his pride and joy, daughters Marie Joy and Joana Mica

When relatives of the murdered man Al-Otaibi were assigned as his guards, he would only be allowed out of the *hajus* if he was going to be hanged by his handcuffs, exposed to the sun and made to stand on tiptoe for hours. They would hit his legs whenever they caught his feet on the ground.

"I would be allowed to rest for a few days while they picked on someone else. And then it's my turn again," Esmero says. On his third day, he suffered so many injuries that the police were forced to bring him to a hospital in Semese, where many Filipino nurses saw his pitiful condition.

For almost three years, he wrote letters to his family but never heard from them. It was only when a Filipino friend who worked as a janitor at the Al-Am Malaz jail found in the trash bin an anniversary card Esmero sent to his wife two years ago that he realized why.

The only person who visited him in jail was a born-again Christian named Alfredo Pastolero, who would sneak out letters for Esmero's family. Later, he would get help from embassy Minister Mariano Dumia and government lawyer Reynaldo Bandar, who won their case in the Shariah court and later worked to reduce their sentence from 350 to 70 lashes each. The lashing was done in the presence of Dumia, Bandar and embassy officials Ahmad Bajunaid and Tom Lauzon, and the *muttawa* (religious police).

When he was transferred to Al-Am Malaz, Esmero worked as a *baladiyah* or a janitor, then later partnered with another Filipino who owned a small store that sold shampoo, soap and some food to the inmates. He also got some Indian prisoners to hire him as a cook. All this earned him around $200 that he sent home to his children. In jail Esmero was touted as an enterprising man, but few people knew that he had earlier tried to kill himself by slashing his wrist with 50 *halala*, a Saudi coin that he had sharpened like a knife. He gave up because it was turning out to be a slow and painful death.

Now, six years later and back home, he refuses to even think of dying. Esmero and his father went to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in Pasay City three weeks ago, hoping that there was some grant or assistance available for returnees like him who had been contributing to the OFW fund for years. But all they found was a livelihood loan. Esmero has no means to pay for any loan. He did receive a scholarship from Amable Aguiluz, owner of the AMA computer schools, to use for himself or any of his kids.

Right now, he's just hoping to set up his own dental laboratory in Siniluan so he could corner the clients from Laguna and Quezon. He was, after all, a much sought-after maker of porcelain and acrylic crown jackets in Saudi Arabia, earning around $1,400 a month. He has, in fact, already converted a small portion of their living room in Liliw into a makeshift laboratory, but it is practically devoid of equipment and there's too much competition in the area. He's also considering buying a jeepney and spending his years as a driver around town. He would be content with that, he says, just to send his kids to school and come home every night to his family. But he has nothing to start with. That's why he is eyeing Saudi again. But this time, he plans to take his wife and children.

"If OWWA can give me money, I won't leave anymore. But if I leave, I want to bring my family with me," says Esmero. "I've been away from them for too long." He has little to fear for himself and much that he is willing to risk "for another beginning with my family," he adds.

"I've given myself to the Lord," says Esmero. "In six years, I've seen five people I know go to the *gasas*; they were executed. What more will I fear?"

**Noteworthy**

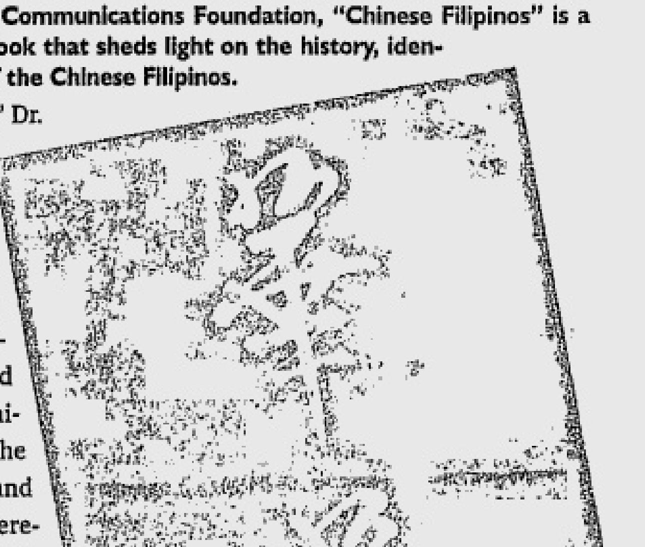
# Celebrating the Journey

***A new book enlightens us about the history and continuing contributions of the Chinese Filipinos among us***

**At a time when their very way of life seems to be under threat, the Chinese Filipinos thankfully get a unique opportunity to celebrate their sizable contributions to Philippine society as we know it, as well as the incredible journey they continue to take.**

**A joint project by the Ateneo de Manila Chinese Studies Program, Xavier School and the Jesuit Communications Foundation, "Chinese Filipinos" is a gorgeous hardcover book that sheds light on the history, identity and rich culture of the Chinese Filipinos.**

"In the Philippines," Dr. Ellen Palanca writes in her preface, "many Chinese Filipinos do not understand their own identity." Edited by Palanca, Jonathan Chua and Aristotle Dy, S.J., "Chinese Filipinos" leads the way with compelling and revealing essays by Teresita Ang-See, Lisa Gokongwei, Clinton Palanca, Michael Tan and Benito Lim, among others. There are glimpses of the old Chinatown, of how Chinese Filipinos are taught and beautiful portraits of their traditions, beliefs and even food. Talented photographers, among them Jurgen Freund, Nico Sepe, Sonny Yabao and Lita Puyat, provide beguiling images of the Chinese Filipino way of life, all complemented by Felix Mago Miguel's elegant book design.



**Reading beyond Chinatown**

"This book also celebrates the coming of age of the Chinese—from being Filipino Chinese, who were ambivalent about their status and loyalty, to the present generation of Chinese Filipinos, who know only the Philippines as their home and country."

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*For inquiries, call the Ateneo Chinese Studies Program at 426-6001 locals 5208/5209 or e-mail rsantos@ateneo.edu.*

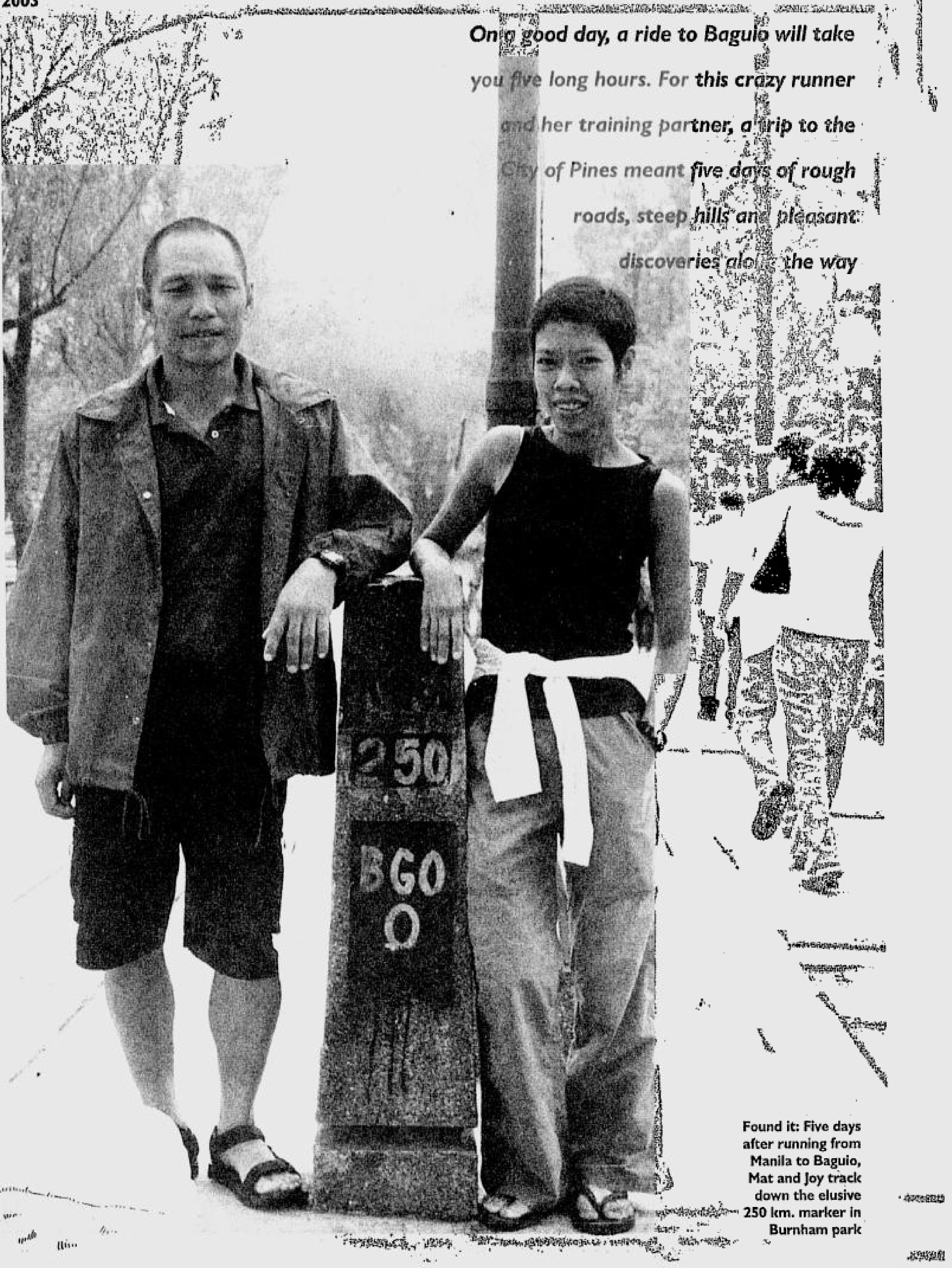
**First Person**

*By Joy Rojas*

*Illustrations by Steph Bravo*

# Five Days at the Edge of the Road

*On a good day, a ride to Baguio will take you five long hours. For this crazy runner and her training partner, a trip to the City of Pines meant five days of rough roads, steep hills and pleasant discoveries along the way*

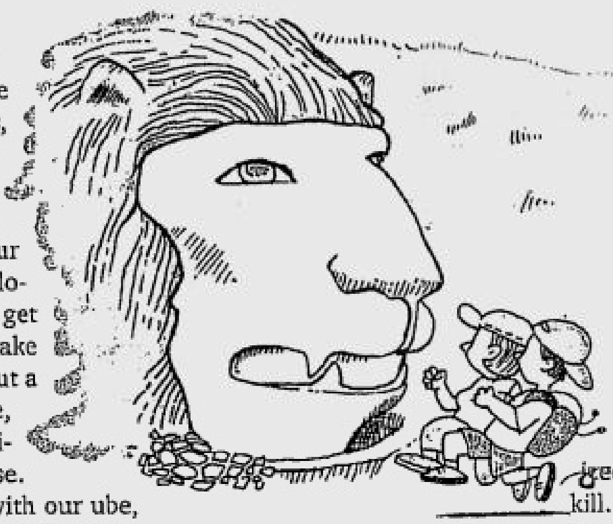


Found it: Five days after running from Manila to Baguio, Mat and Joy track down the elusive 250 km. marker in Burnham park

**ON OUR way to Baguio last October, we saw a taxi hit a man in the dead of night on Avenida, helped three kids pull their tricycle loaded with heavy water jugs out of a muddy ditch in Valenzuela, Bulacan, and caught marathon king Rey Antoque in the middle of an early training run in Tarlac. We dodged angry dogs and fresh carabao dung, shared a *dalandan* that had fallen off a tree, and wore stained and smelly clothes two days in a row. A crying child froze at the sight of us, onlookers whispered "survivor" and "*penitensya*," and a drug store owner thought we were in the military.**

Ours was not only the most eventful route to the City of Pines; it was also the longest, hardest, most humbling, fun and fulfilling. We were running from Manila to Baguio.

Here was our plan: to negotiate the 250-km distance on foot, we would run 50 kilometers a day for five days, beginning at the Zero-K marker in Luneta and proceeding via MacArthur Highway. Upon reaching our 50th kilometer for the day, wherever it was, we would find a place to rest, eat, spend the night, rise before dawn and run to our next destination 50 kilometers away. Once we get to Baguio, we would take three days off, check out a potential running site, then head back to Manila (by bus, of course. What are we, nuts?) with our ube, jam and peanut brittle *pasalubong* in tow. The little possessions we had—a few clothes, mineral water bottles, toiletries, crackers, first aid kit, pocket camera, cell phone, diary and map of the Philippines—we packed in sturdy backpacks which we bound tightly to our waist and chest to keep them from swaying during the run.



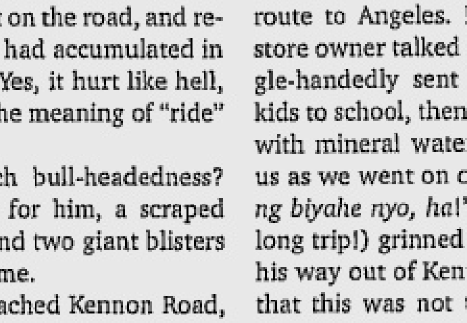
Strangers reacted to our five-day road trip with shock, awe and disbelief, but to family and friends, it was, literally and figuratively, the next logical step in our ongoing series of ultramarathons—that is, runs measuring more than the standard marathon distance of 42.195 kilometers.

Passionate about bringing ourselves from one point to another entirely through our own efforts and determination, we began running ultras together, first with "Running Priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, and then as a twosome last year. My running partner, 45-year-old Mateo Macabe, earned a reputation as an enduring long distance specialist in the '80s when he became one of the few men who placed in the only 100-kilometer race and 24-hour ultramarathon held in the country. I racked up my mileage in countless advocacy runs in and out of Manila with Fr. Robert. Seven months after my fortuitous magazine interview with him in 1997, I found myself the lone female in Father's Trans-Visayas Run, a 40-day, 1,196K journey on foot from Guian, Eastern Samar to Kalibo, Aklan.

If Fr. Robert is a friend and inspiration, so is Cesar Guarin, owner of the pioneer sportswear store Botak. From time to time, we regaled him with stories of our latest ultras—baby steps next to his achievements as the first Filipino to tackle the Philippines, New York to Los Angeles, and Barcelona to Rome. In a year, Mat and I had run from Manila to Tagaytay thrice (the 56-kilometer stretch starts flat in Roxas Blvd., Bacoor and Imus, then rolls in Dasmarinas and Silang) and ran from UP Diliman to UP Los Banos in three days via the scenic Rizal Province. We trained religiously, running with our backpacks for two, three, four hours on the inclined streets of Bel-Air Village, Makati, or at the newly paved Macapagal Highway. For kicks, we would run from my place in Makati to Mat's place of work at UP Diliman's Church of the Holy Sacrifice, or from my place to Antipolo Church.

As in all ultras great and small, Baguio posed serious danger issues. Exposed to the elements, we could get sick, sprain an ankle, break a leg, suffer heatstroke or dehydration. Having come across four vehicular accidents in five days (a couple of them by truck drivers who had fallen asleep at the wheel and rammed against a tree or the gate of a Jehovah's Witnesses church), we realized our potential as roadkill. And who knew what sort of misguided elements we would meet along the way? Each morning, we took turns praying for our safety.

And we got it. In five days, Mat, a strong and sure-footed runner, said his worst enemy was the heat. He did fartleks—speed play, in runner's parlance—by picking up his pace in sunny areas and slowing to a jog once he reached the shade of a tree. My chief complaint was running on the slanted side of the road. Lucky us if it was concrete, asphalt, fine gravel, dirt or even grass. Mostly it was stones—sharp, loose clusters, some as big as a man's fist. Never having run them before, I hobbled awkwardly and fell flat on my face in Malolos. Mat, who got used to them when he worked and ran in Saudi Arabia, appeared to be cruising on a smooth surface—only to stop, sit on the road, and remove the stones that had accumulated in his socks and shoes. Yes, it hurt like hell, but we didn't know the meaning of "ride" or "quit."



The price for such bull-headedness? Three dead toenails for him, a scraped left hand and knee and two giant blisters on my right foot for me.

By the time we reached Kennon Road, the hills had replaced rough roads as the ultimate challenge. I groaned each time a blind corner revealed yet another hill, usually steeper than the last. Some hills were so inclined, I swear, with the weight of our backpacks, we were so bent over forward our chest nearly grazed the ground.

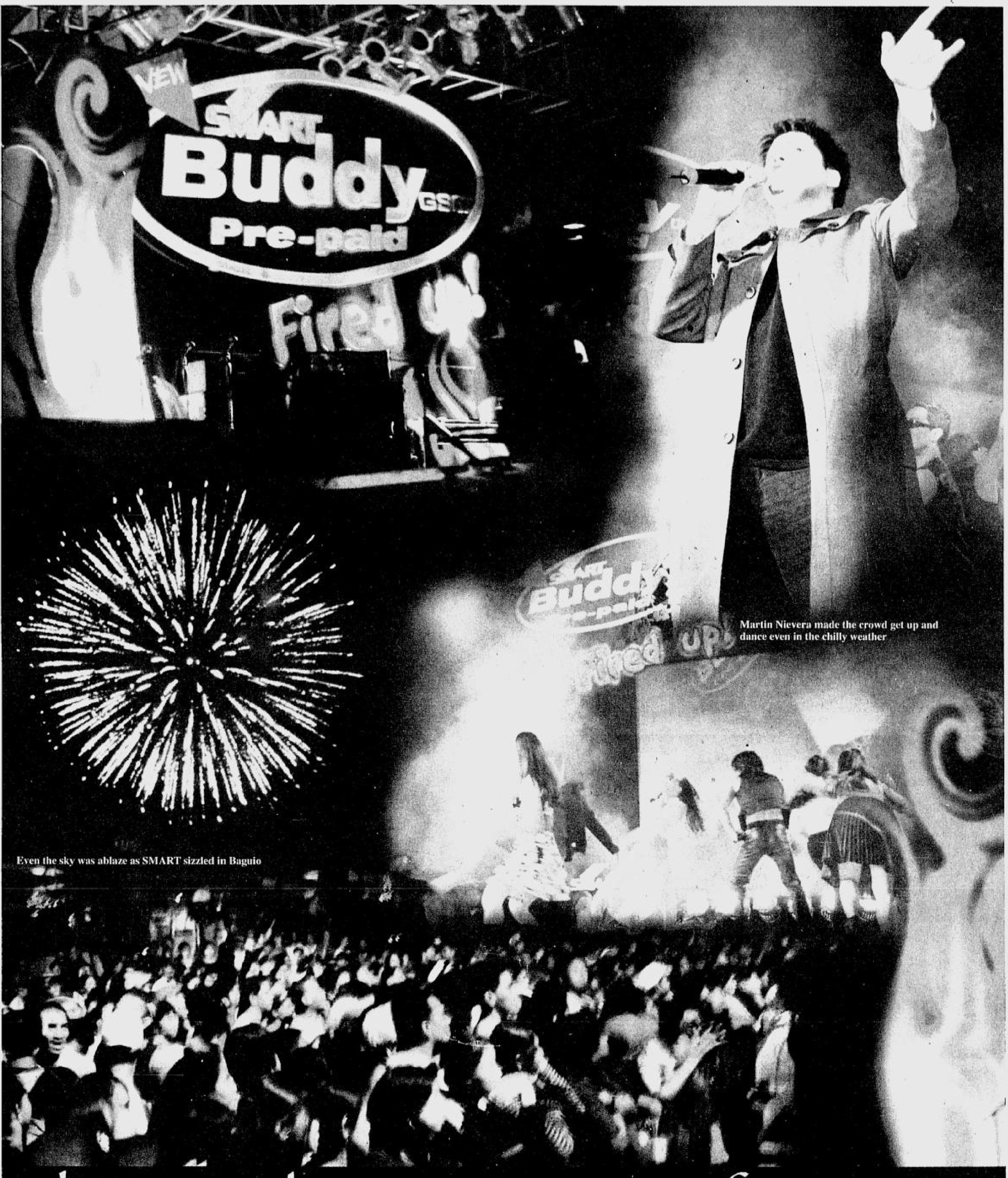
Of course, whatever pain we put ourselves through was worth the exhilaration we experienced in the best five running days of our lives. Free from the pressures of racing, we maintained a comfortable eight kilometer-per-hour pace, and talked about anything under the sun. We ran for long, meditative stretches, took breaks whenever we liked, and still managed to reach 50 kilometers by mid-afternoon. When water was not enough and we had had our fill of Gatorade, we drank as many as five soft drinks a day (regular, not diet!) and feasted on our *baon* of crackers, bread from the local bakery, and instant noodles from the gasoline station convenience store. Though the views were few and far between, they were spectacular. The mountains at Kennon Road were a welcome distraction from all the insane hill-climbing, but my favorite was running across Bamban Bridge, a lovely and modern arch that seemed strangely out of place in a sleepy town.

What amazed us the most, however, was how kind everyone was to us. We felt mutual respect and camaraderie in the warm smiles and greetings thrown our way by a pack of Parañaque cyclists en route to Angeles. In Paniqui, a sari-sari store owner talked about how she single-handedly sent her now grown kids to school, then filled our bottles with mineral water before blessing us as we went on our way. "*Ang layo ng biyahe nyo, ha!*" (Hey, that's quite long trip!) grinned a truck driver on his way out of Kennon Road, a sign that this was not the first time he had seen us. The cutthroat city life may have made us indifferent, self-absorbed and suspicious, but our feet led us to places where Filipinos still smile and speak to strangers, and are willing to lend a hand expecting nothing in return.

Appropriately, the most meaningful part of the run came at the final leg. Up until then, Mat and I had been running in searing, summer-like weather, and we applied sun block and doused ourselves constantly to beat the heat. But five kilometers before Baguio and with yet another series of impossible ascents to tackle, it began to rain, first in scant drops that turned into a major downpour. Our clothes and bags quickly absorbed the water, and we were running up the hills with puddles in our shoes. But it no longer mattered. To us, it was as if God was doing the dousing for us, cooling our weary bodies, making sure that we would finish our journey the way any marathoner would have wanted to: running till the very end. Later, a taxi driver would casually mention to us that prior to the downpour, Baguio had been rain-free for months.

I wish I could tell you that we sustained this dramatic moment as we reached our "holy grail," the 250-kilometer marker. Actually, we had been doing fine up until marker 248. But once we ran across the welcome arch of Baguio, the rotundas confused us, so we ended up following the wrong set of markers. Realizing our mistake after three kilometers, we decided to stop, look for a place to stay, and find markers 249 and 250 the next day.

What a sight we must have been! There we were, two crazy runners, soaked to the bone, shivering from the icy rain, and three kilometers off course. We couldn't have been happier.



Martin Nievera made the crowd get up and dance even in the chilly weather

Even the sky was ablaze as SMART sizzled in Baguio

# The Sizzling Streets of Baguio

Legarda Street was jampacked for the SMART Buddy Fired Up street party

The Concert King walks, talks, and sings the Buddy Language

SMART
Buddy GSM
Pre-paid
Fired up!

SMART
Buddy GSM
Pre-paid
Fired

The City of Pines never sizzled like this before! Indeed, only the leading mobile services provider could close an entire street in Baguio City and have the whole town buzzing with events throughout the week. SMART Communications took the opportunity to hold a one-of-a-kind street party for both residents and visitors to the Summer Capital. SMART celebrated reaching the 12-million subscriber milestone via SMART S12zles, SMART's own way of thanking the millions who have allowed us to fire up their lives with the hottest innovations and services.

The SMART Buddy Fired Up! street party happened at Legarda Road, in the heart of Baguio itself. The program started with a SMART Buddy dance competition which saw various schools participating and hosted by DJ Maverick and Regine Tolentino. The main program saw a fiery opening number from Rufa Mae Quinto with Jett Pangan, lead singer of The Dawn. Edu Manzano, Paolo Bediones, Regine Tolentino, Issa Litton, and TJ Manotoc all acted as hosts throughout the evening.

Various bands, namely Parokya ni Edgar, True Faith, Prime Council with Jay-R and Arnee, The Dawn and Brownman Revival, rocked the street party on Legarda. Of course, no SMART event is complete without the SMART Man himself, Martin Nievera. The Concert King held a mini-concert to the delight of his thousands of fans in Baguio. The event was capped with fireworks and a huge blast of confetti that dazzled the audience even as the party continued till the wee hours of the morning.

- SMART Buddy also raffled off 12 high-end celfones throughout the evening. From the Nokia 3530, 3650, 7650, to the 6600, the Sony Ericsson T300, and the Siemens S57, all SMART subscribers also enjoyed free entrance to the event. Free perks like henna tattoos, nail art, fortune telling, karaoke, arcade games, etc. and free beer were also available for loyal SMART subscribers. Those who weren't on the SMART network also availed of all these perks once they SIM swapped to SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2, the most powerful SIM from SMART to date.

Add to the excitement caused by the SMART Buddy Fired Up! street party, SMART also entered Baguio through events like SMART Gold Ignite featuring Gold Acoustic Nights at The Manor. With talents like Paolo Santos, Bert and Martin Nievera, Jong Cuenco, and Geneva Cruz performing, The Manor was turned into a virtual concert hall to showcase the performers. Talk 'N Text Liyab! Gimik ng Bayan saw a veritable street carnival atmosphere hit Baguio. With dozens of booths and game stations at Malcolm Square for Talk 'N Text subscribers, the party never really ended in the City of Pines. Francis Magalona, Rufa Mae Quinto and Talk 'N Text endorsers Marvin Agustin and Dominic Ochoa graced the raucous festivities. The Addict nizens of Big Fish, led by DJ TCand UK DJ Chris Coco mixing their brand of house and chillout music for Baguio's party set.

We can't help but reminisce on the fun time had by all who drove up to the chilly north known as Baguio. Thanks to the various parties and events held by SMART, you can be sure that those memories will continue to burn with the same fire and passion that SMART has long been known for. So keep your eyes peeled as the party never ends with SMART!

***Watch out for the SMART S12zles segment in S.O.P today, December 14!***

SMART S12zles

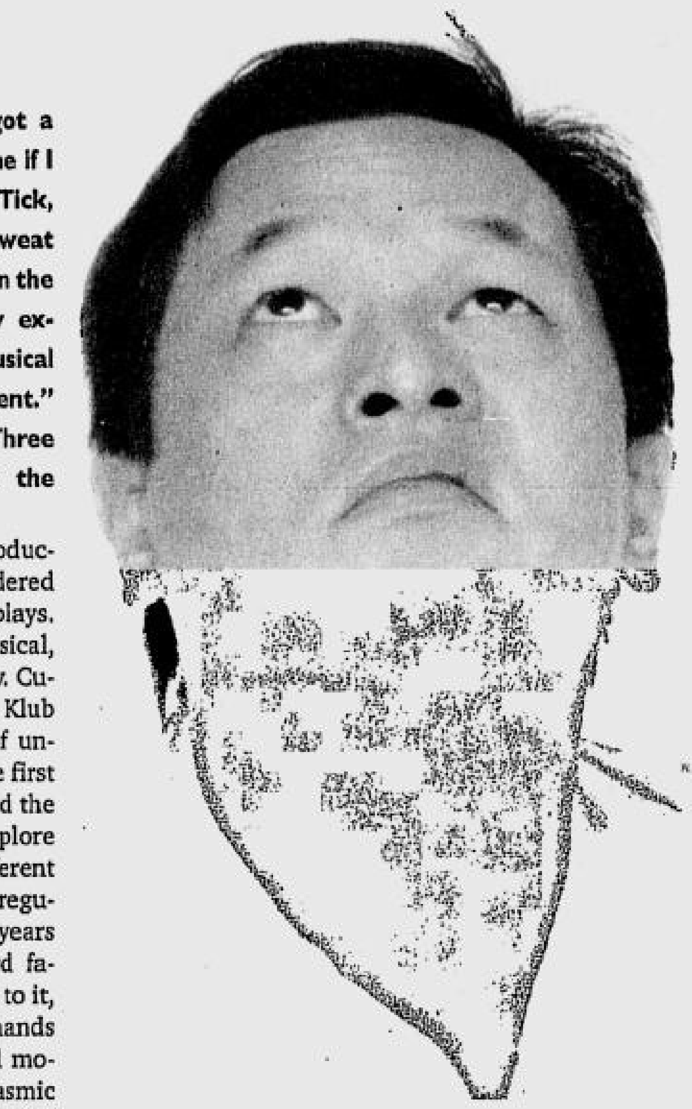
Advt.

## Theater Tales

*By Jett Pangan*
*Photographs by Raymund Isaac*

# From Rocker to Thespian

***The Dawn's lead singer Jett Pangan discovers a hot new source of that adrenaline rush that he used to get only from band gigs***



**I CAN vividly recall that afternoon when I got a phone call from director Bobby Garcia, asking me if I wanted to play this guy Jon in a musical called "Tick, Tick... Boom!" I was having my car checked, sweat pouring down my face, as I paced back and forth in the humid service area while *Direk* Bobby briefly explained the plot. I learned later on that the musical was based on the life of the guy who wrote "Rent." Soon after I said, "Great! Thank you! Bye!" Three stage productions later, life has never been the same.**

After playing Pontius Pilate in the '70s Bistro production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," I quietly wondered what it would be like to be involved in other plays. "JCS" was a blast, mainly because it was a rock musical, and the cast was made up mostly of artists I know. Curiosity led me to become part of a Peta Komide Klub run, which featured 15-minute skits and a lot of unknown talents ripe for more opportunities. On the first day of rehearsal for "Tick, Tick... Boom!", I realized the deeper reason why I wanted to further explore *teatro*—to get that rush. That rush comes from different things for different people; for me, it is supplied regularly by my performances with The Dawn. Twelve years of playing music that always includes the crowd favorites, gig in and gig out, and I still look forward to it, my heart beating slightly faster than normal, my hands getting a bit clammy, my mind feeling hot-wired moments before I go onstage. That rush becomes orgasmic when the energy you unleash is returned to you by the audience.

PDI PHOTO

**Pangan kicks it with The Dawn (left) and the "Urinetown" cast (below)**

When The Dawn first played before a paying audience in 1986, I already knew that the band was all about energy. Teddy Diaz was the lone guitar player then, so the songs had to be tight and played first. "Enveloped Ideas," during those days, sounded more like a punk song when played live (come to think of it, so were the other songs on the set list) and therefore required the band members to channel all fury and passion onstage. We have two guitar players now, but we still operate on the principle that we just can't stand there and let the songs take care of themselves. We have to deliver a performance. And seeing the crowd sing, dance, mash and generally get in touch with their primal side through our music, we get that great surge of feeling, like what you get when you win an award or finally conquer that hottie you've been pining for. That rush has become my drug of choice. And musical theater has become another generous supplier.

Now, before the rush, there is the kick. I get a kick out of working in a production that features theater veterans as well as artists from different genres. One can learn so much from these guys just by watching them work. Theater has also reoriented me on certain core values and principles that make for a better person—discipline, patience and good old-fashioned hard work (especially with the dancing bits). In this new musical adaptation called "Urinetown" (pronounced like "you're in town"), I am once again getting a kick out of being billed with the likes of Michael de Mesa, Noel Rayos, Cathy Azanza, Jinky Llamanzares and a host of great talents. You'll get a lot of laughs, a lot of great music, top grade entertainment. You're gonna enjoy it so much, you'll wish you had paid more.

A week after the show opened, I'm still having one heck of a thrill-ride in the world of musical theater, a world where I will always be the bright-eyed kid transported into some fantasy land discovering new and exciting things every step of the way. Q

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*The author earned a 2003 Aliw Best Actor nomination for his role as James Thunder Early in Atlantis Productions' presentation of "Dreamgirls." The Dawn is currently writing new material for its next album. For more information on The Dawn, visit their website at www.thedawn.com.ph.*

*"Urinetown, The Musical" runs until December 21 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. For tickets, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 and Ticketworld at 891-5610.*

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## LoveNotes

*By Joe D' Mango*

# The Boundary of Infidelity

***He's all I ever wanted in a man, except for one thing: He's married!***

*Dear Joe,*

*I have always been a late bloomer. I am now a law student, and my friends say that they are very proud of me because I was the catch of the college. I never took it seriously. No one dared to court me.*

*Until I met this man. He's a looker and quite funny. He's all I ever wanted in a man, except for one thing: He's married! I really never imagined myself in this situation. He took me out for dinner several times, until he finally confessed his feelings. And I fell in love with him, too*

*It was my biggest mistake. People ask us what our status was. We deny our relationship, for obvious reasons. If everyone knew about it, we could not become lawyers! All of a sudden, it came to me; I felt that he just wanted to have the best of both worlds. His wife is very pretty. I saw her picture in his wallet.*

*I know you will say that breaking up with him is a good thing. And it would be my loss should we continue this relationship. But Joe, I felt that he did love me. What's worse, he is starting to get scared because he thinks I'm going to stir up a scandal because he and his wife work in the same company. I usually drop by and visit him there.*

*Joe, just help me pick up from where I left myself. I deserve someone better, but help me take away the pain.*

*Pink*

Dear Pink,

I have always said time and again that when we begin to dwell only on the things that we think could make us truly happy, we give ourselves the chance to feel right about what is wrong. And when that happens, we fall into a trap where we are definitely bound to get hurt.

Pink, it was never your fault that you fell for a married man. But you are responsible for the actions that you take in response to this overwhelming emotion. Loving a person cannot be wrong. It is what we do out of that love that sometimes makes it wrong. Loving somebody who is already committed to someone else can only be wrong when you start to have an affair with that person. Otherwise, it would just be a feeling that is so good to keep. The moment we step on other people just to have our way, we are already crossing the boundary of infidelity.

Pink, we all make mistakes. We have all been led astray, at one or more points in our lives, by our passion and emotions. If everyone who failed in life didn't get a second chance, then all of us will be doomed. No matter how terrible we feel for the mistakes that we have made, there will always be a way to redeem ourselves.

First, we have to ask for forgiveness and learn to forgive ourselves. Then we have to leave the burden of the past and start our lives with a new yoke. Let us always remember that no matter how regretful the outcome of loving someone might have been, it is still better than not having loved at all. We become better persons when we learn from our mistakes. Pink, let the pain remain for a time. Let it be the catalyst for the healing of your heart. Forgive and the pain will go away, accept and you'll have your new turn in life, love and love again, until you find the person who can share it with you forever. Q

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## Noteworthy

# Christmas Galing

***The Galing Pilipino Movements puts a charitable and Pinoy twist on giving***

**TAKING the idea of the gift that keeps giving one step further, The Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) is now working on gathering donations for other causes through their "Pamaskong Galing Pilipino Light-a-Tree for Unity" project. People who sponsor a colored lightbulb (for P150 a pop) on the GPM Christmas tree will effectively donate money to the Red Cross, Bantay Kalikasan, SOS Children's Villages Philippines, ACDA's PeaceBuild Mindanao and Care-Giving Centers for the Elderly. The GPM's Christmas tree, with its dazzling donated colored lights, can be seen at Luneta Park from Dec. 16, 2003 to Jan. 4, 2004.**

Additionally, GPM is pushing the Philippines as the "Christmas Capital of the World." On Dec. 16, GPM calls on all Filipinos everywhere to sing "*Pasko Na Naman*" at 7 p.m. in a moment of prayer and unity. GPM founding president Erly de Guzman explains, "Not only do we have the longest Christmas season, we probably have the highest gift-giving/Christmas shopping per capita in the world and the most heartwarming traditions and programs to mark the festive celebration. This season provides Pilipinos with more opportunities to manifest the 'Galing Pilipino' spirit than at any other time of the year." Q

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For inquiries, call 631-3932 or log on to http://www.galingpilipino.com.

# This Week

## Art

**Grin Without the Cat** presents a series of Juan Alcazaren's drawings in acrylic and ballpoint pen and and a series of small-scale works on canvas, at the Mag:net Gallery, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. St., QC until Dec. 16.

**Tianda**, miniature sculptures in terracotta by Susanito Sarnate at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until Dec. 18.

**Susanito Sarnate's "Tianda," on view at the Drawing Room**

**Recent Paintings** features Antonio Daroy's abstracts done in two triptychs and a six-paneled work, all in acrylic on canvas, until Dec. 21 at the Mag:net Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno Street, Makati City.

**Sensations of Nature**, an exhibit of large-scale paintings by Allan Cosio at Le Soufflé Bistro, 2/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig Center until Dec. 31.

**The Twelve Trees of Christmas**, a display of extraordinary Christmas trees at the lobby of InterContinental until Jan. 4.

**[Sur]Reality**, Danny Castillones Sillada's major show featuring oil paintings, pen & ink drawings, photographs, visual poetry, and an initial release of his limited edition chapbook of poems titled "If I Could Write the Saddest Poem & Other Selected Poems," runs until Jan. 10, 2004 at Philippine Art Gallery, 22 Oakville St., White Plains, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 995-7185.

## Music

**Mitch Valdes Rock and Rules with Jon Santos.** Spend an evening of laughs in the year's most hilarious musical comedy show on Dec. 18, 9 p.m. at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City. Tickets priced at P600 and P900 are available at all TicketWorld outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Glorietta 1. ticket booth cinema lobby, Greenbelt 1 ticket booth cinema lobby, Tower Records (Makati and Alabang) and Robinsons Department Stores. For reservations, call TicketWorld at 891-5610.

Featured performers at **70's Bistro**: Dec. 15, Joey Ayala; Dec. 16, Bistro 11th anniversary featuring Razorback / Imago; Dec. 17, Noel Cabangon; Dec. 18, Cynthia Alexander; Dec. 19, The Jerks; Dec. 20, Bistro 11th Anniversary Party Jam; Dec. 22, Session Road/Village Idiots; Dec. 23, Brownman Revival; Dec. 26, The Jerks; Dec. 27, Special Show: Play 4 Serve. For inquiries and reservations, call 434-3597 or e-mail bistro70s@yahoo.com.

## Onstage

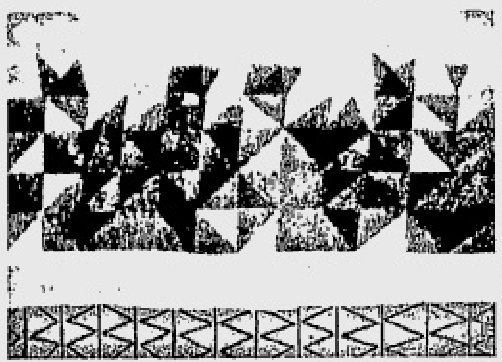
The magical adventures of **Pinocchio** are presented in a new adaptation of Carlo Collodi's well-loved classic about a wooden puppet who, in his quest to become a real boy, learns about life, love and honesty. Filled with songs, fantasy, costumes and humor, "Pinocchio" is a play that will surely delight children of all ages. It will go onstage until Dec. 17 at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute (CCP Studio Theater). For tickets, call 832-1125 local 1620 and 1621 (daily except Mondays).

## Food

The **Palms Country Club's Cafe Asiana** in Laguna Heights Drive, Alabang offers succulent choices that will complete any Noche Buena table such as Slow Roasted US Prime Rib, Honey Glazed Pine Ham, Fillet Wellington, Roast Australian Beef or the Roast Jenny-O Turkey. Also available at the lobby until Jan. 2 are Christmas hampers with gourmet items, beverages and special goodies. On Dec. 24, dine on an alternative Noche Buena feast as Cafe Asian presents a Christmas Eve lunch and dinner buffet. For details, call 771-7171.

The **Richmonde Hotel** offers hearty **holiday goodies** like the traditional favorites savory chicken galantine and holiday fruit cake, and tasty bread variations like cinnamon twist loaf and banana walnut bread. Also available in boxes are pastries like cinnamon roll, Vienna brownies, plain and *ube ensaymada* and its very own heavenly creation, Day's Dream, a chewy chocolate treat mixed with generous helpings of nut varieties. Sample these Yuletide offerings at the Richmonde's Goodie Counter located at the hotel lobby until Dec. 31. For orders or inquiries, call 638-7777 ext. 3401. Bulk orders should be placed two days in advance.

## Atbp



**"City Afloat" by Antonio Morilao Daroy, on view at the Mag:net Gallery Makati**

**Museo Pambata @ 10: more than a children's museum**, a 10th anniversary celebration looking back on the museum's first 10 years—its programs, activities and achievements. Schedule of activities are as follows: Christmas Party of all Museo Pambata Club members on Dec. 19 at 2 p.m., and book-giving and storytelling session at the Chosen Children Inc. in Silang, Cavite on Dec. 20. To accommodate visitors during the holiday season, the museum will be open on Dec. 27, 28, Jan. 3 and 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, visit Museo Pambata at Roxas Boulevard cor. South Drive, Manila or call 523-1797 to 98.

**Ateneo Press** is holding a **sale** until Dec. 16 at the Press bookshop in Bellarmine Hall, ADMU Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. All Ateneo Press titles are on sale at 20 to 30 percent discount (15 percent if credit card purchases). Sales hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday. You may call 426-5984, or 426-6001 ext. 4612/4613/4616 or email unipress@admu.edu.ph to reserve copies, and come by during the sale period to pick them up.

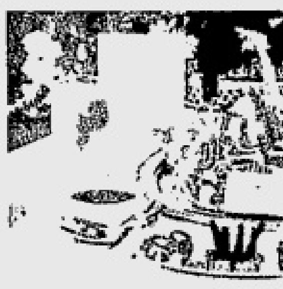
**Chi Legacy**, the Health and Wellness Center, is having an **open house** this Christmas season until Dec. 20. Free medical consultation and discounts on certain items. Visit Chi Legacy, Ground Floor, Lafayette One, Eastwood City, Libis, QC or call 687-1032 and 687-0313.

Whatever the event, be the character of your dreams when you attend this year's **Christmas costume parties** by renting costumes from **Tanghalang Pilipino**, the resident theater company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Take your pick from TP's collection from more than 16 seasons' worth of productions, with designs from different time periods and locales. Costumes range from Gothic to Oriental, from realistic to out-of-this world. Call TP at 832-3661 and 832-1125 locals 1620/1621 or visit the office at 2F Production Design Center Building (behind the CCP Main Building), CCP Complex, Pasay City. Lease of all costumes is subject to rental, laundry and deposit fees. Give three days allowance for release of selected costumes.

On Dec. 14, 20 21 and 25, **Discovery Suites** hosts the **Nestlé Santa Claus Weekends.** Guests can catch big Santa from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. as he spreads good cheers and Nestlé goodies and treats. Christmas symphonies performed by ADB's Singers for Christ fill the air on Dec. 15, 17 and 19 at the hotel lobby starting at 5:45 p.m.For inquiries, call 635-2222.

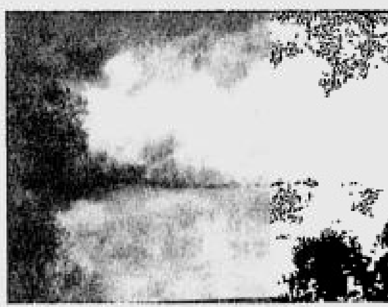
A **seminar on Starting your Own Preschool/Child Care Center** will be held on Dec. 20 and 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City by a US-trained educator. For inquiries, call 823-2615.

**Festival Supermall** in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang presents **The Christmas Medley**, an octave of musical specials and kiddie holiday treats. Schedules are as follows: Christmas Cinema featuring well-loved musical scores from classic and contemporary movies for kids, ongoing until Dec. 30; Heavenly Christmas with the Loboc Children's Choir (Dec. 20, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 21, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.); The Grinchmas features popular Christmas carols given new twists in a colorful musical play for kids (Dec. 22-23, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.), and Storytelling and art workshop sessions for kids on Dec. 24, 26, 27, 28 and 30. All activities will take place at mall's Carousel Court, Level 2. Admission is free.



**Belgian Chocolate from Theo Broma available at the Angel Sent Bazaar**

The **5th Angel Sent Bazaar** scheduled on Dec. 20-21 at the Lower Lobby of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel features the best of local and select imported items ranging from select delicatessen from Europe, wines and spirits from the world's best vineyards, American designed and made ready-to-wear collections, and the best candle designs and scents. The bazaar is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 825-0804 or 825-3482.



**Allan Cosio's "Sensations of Bacolor," on view at Le Soufflé Bistro Ortigas**

The **Mandy Navasero Photoworkshop** offers a three-day session on **digital photography**. Guest lecturer is David Hanson, a technical photographer while Navasero will discuss the elements of a good photograph. Participants will gain technical and artistic know-how needed to succeed in electronic visual communications. Workshop fee is P6,500 and offers hands-on exercises and critique. Workshop schedules are Jan. 10, 17 and 24; Feb. 7, 21 and 22, and March 6, 13 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For registration, call 522-5185, or 899-1767 or visit Mandy's studio at Room 227, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City.

## X-manila

**The Coconut**, the official publication of Quezon National High School in Lucena City, will celebrate its **75th anniversary** on Dec. 29-30. A Mass will be held at 8 a.m. at the St. Ferdinand Cathedral followed by a motorcade. At 1 p.m., alumni will troop to Baywatch Beach Resort in Sariaya, Quezon for an overnight of fun and reminiscing. Reunion dues is P500 (for local alumni) and $100 (for overseas alumni). Contact persons are Nilds Villenas (042) 710-2518; Bal L. Yujuico (byujuico@aol.com); Mil Reyes (milwida03@yahoo.com.au); Annuar Von Samonte (rattlecux@hotmail.com); Joseph Thaddeus Morong (j_morong@yahoo.com). Those interested may sign as members of thecoconut@yahoogroups.com.

The **4th Vipassana 10-day meditation retreat** will be held on Feb. 16-27, 2004 at Holy Family Retreat House, Bgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal. For details, visit the website www.dhamma.org or call Gener Mendoza (0918-9058750), Rissa Dimapilis (0917-8338732), Rudy del Rosario (02) 8231418 or Art Pambid (02) 6434164.

**For this week's bands and schedules call:**

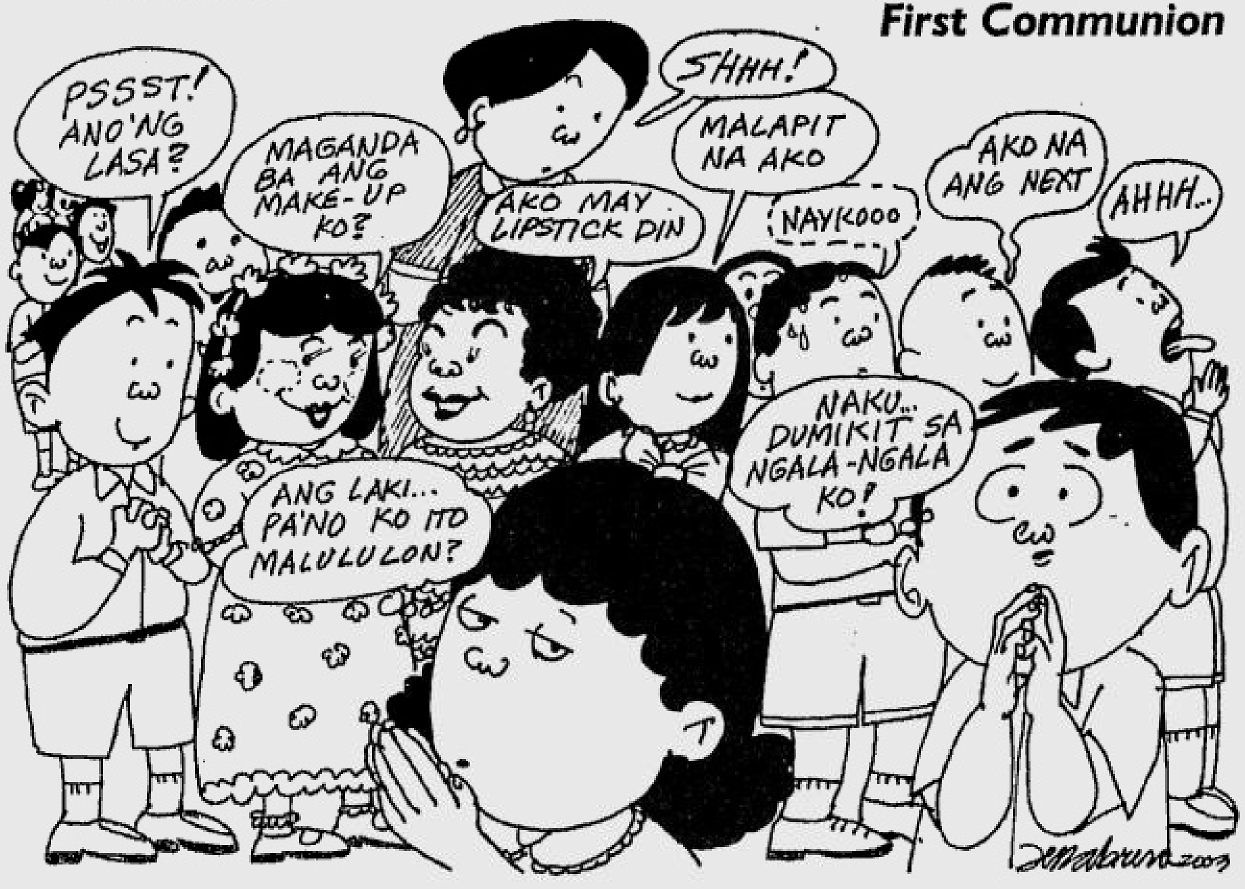
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

**The Sunday Inquirer Magazine** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

# Pinoy Nga

*By Jess Abrera*

## First Communion


PSSST! ANO'NG LASA?
MAGANDA BA ANG MAKE-UP KO?
SHHH!
AKO MAY LIPSTICK DIN
MALAPIT NA AKO
NAYKOOO
AKO NA ANG NEXT
AHHH..
ANG LAKI... PA'NO KO ITO MALULULON?
NAKU.. DUMIKIT SA NGALA-NGALA KO!

# Backpages

## Lydia's Long Road

***The retired track star continues to fight for the causes she believes in despite personal loss***

**Once touted as Asia's fastest woman, Lydia de Vega, SIM's cover subject for August 16, 1987, brought honor and glory to the Philippines when she became the first woman to win back-to-back gold medals for the 100-meter dash in the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, Korea, where she beat her archrival, India's P.T. Usha. But while her on-track exploits were the stuff of headlines and victory, Lydia has seen her share of loss as well.** Through her marriage to engineer Paul Mercado, Lydia had four kids, whom she called her "most precious medals." In February 2001, Lydia's son, John Michael, then 4, died in a tragic road accident. It was indeed a heartbreaking loss for Asia's former queen of sprints and the Female Athlete of the year for 1987. Yet she races on. It seems, though that Lydia hasn't run her last race yet. Aside from a stint hosting a TV show, Lydia continues to fight for the rights of our national athletes with another celebrated Filipino athlete, Eric Buhain. After all, no matter what race she's running, Lydia isn't one to quit.

**Mia Saavedra**

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

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Combination Welder
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Computer Engineering
Computer Fundamentals/Basic Programming
Dental Assistant
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HIGH SCHOOL
(YEAR 1 TO 4)

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# 'Tis the Season to be at the

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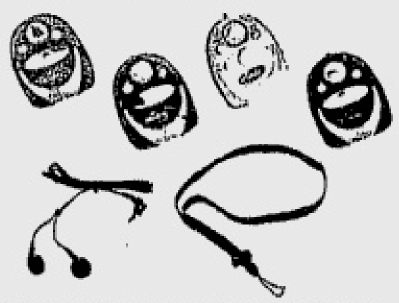

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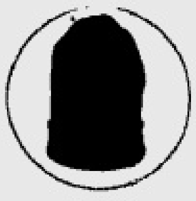
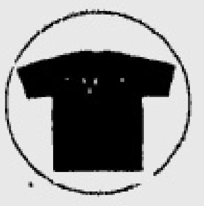
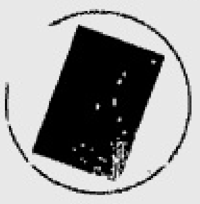

*Bonnet*


*T-shirt*

*Tank Top*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**Luzon**
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JC Enterprises, Santiago *Entrance gate*
Traders Square, Naga City *G/F, Trade Square Bldg, Padre Burgos St., Naga City*
Liana's Discount City, Calamba, Laguna *G/F, center*
Magic Mall, Urdaneta *G/F Grocery section*
Pacific Mall, Legaspi *G/F area*
Maharlika Mall, Baguio *Lobby Area*

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SM Cagayan de Oro *G/F between Giordano & Guess*
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Mindpro Mall, Zamboanga *G/F*

**DECEMBER 1 - 15, 2003**

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SM Centerpoint *UGF, Centerpoint (Mass Area)*
SM Southmall *UGF, in front of Supermarket*
SM Manila *UGF, West Wing near National Bookstore*
SM Sucat *UGF, between Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo*
SM North Edsa** *City Center, G/F Centermall (Sylvia Santos)*
Alabang Town Center *G/F, Old Wing between FCX & Mendrez*
Festival Mall *2/L, between Giordano & Body Shop*

**Luzon**
SM Pampanga Centermall *Mass Area between Pizza Hut & Watson's*
SM Lucena *G/F, in front of Astrovision*
SM Baguio*** *LGF, in front of staircase between Island Souvenirs & Freshaire*
SM Marilao *Entrance 4, in front of Mr. Quickie*
NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan *Atrium 4*
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